



Photo by Jorge Zepeda

HOTEL TAKEOVER

ALTAMONT WILL GO FROM HOVEL TO HOME

by Annys Shin

After years of listening to community appeals for help in managing the neighborhood's homeless situation, Mission Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) has secured funding to buy and rehabilitate the 96-unit Altamont Hotel at 16th and Julian Streets.

MHDC intends to turn the dilapidated hotel around and create a model for other SRO (single resident occupancy) hotels in the area. The transformation of the Altamont will begin with renovations in June 1995 that will last one to two years. Improvements will include seismic reinforcement of the building, installation of an elevator for handicapped access, upgrading of plumbing and placement of community kitchens on each floor. Two units will be converted into a manager's apartment. After renovation there will be a total of 88 SRO units, about a third of which will continue to be occupied by current long-term residents.

A tenant council will be created that will be involved in management and tenant selection decisions. On-site staff will provide transitional case manage-

ment services, connecting residents with social service providers. Service agencies involved include Citywide Case Management; the Iris Center, which works with HIV+ women; AYUDA, which works with homeless Latinos; Mission Hiring Hall; Mission Neighborhood Health Center; Tenderloin Housing Clinic and the San Francisco Day Laborers Program.

The renovation and management of the Altamont will create job opportunities for local residents. MHDC will work with Mission Hiring Hall and contractors to hire locals and minority- and women-owned subcontractors for renovation work. Caritas Management, a subsidiary of MHDC, will employ Mission residents in the on-site staff positions.

The acquisition of the Altamont is the culmination of two years of planning, locating funding sources, negotiating with the hotel's current owners, and talking with community and social service groups. MHDC finally secured funding -- approximately \$2 million -- to buy the Altamont in late September and is hoping to complete the purchase sometime this month. The project is being financed by

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

REDEVELOPMENT PLANS TAKE A NEW TURN

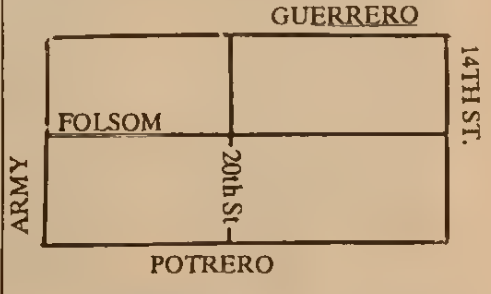
MISSION TASK FORCE WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

by Victor Miller

The question of what role, if any, the Redevelopment Agency will play in the Mission took another turn last month when the Mayor's Office gave final authority over this issue to the Mayor's Mission Task Force. The Task Force will, probably in the next few months, hold public hearings on the establishment of a Redevelopment Project Survey Area.

Over the past six months, another group called the Working Committee on Redevelopment, composed of business associations, non-profit corporations and arts organizations, has been meeting and formulating plans for initiating the Redevelopment process. The Working Committee, coordinated by Ellen Gavin of Brava! for Women in the Arts, has already held two public sessions on Redevelopment earlier this year, as well as a number of non-public gatherings of representatives of community organizations such as Alianza, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Mission Merchants and Mission Hiring Hall.

Relations between the two organizations are currently somewhat strained. At an October meeting of the Working Committee, a proposal to give more authority to the Mayor's Task Force on the Redevelopment issue was strongly rejected and Ellen Gavin told the News she considers the Task Force "A dysfunctional organization ... not a force in the Mission." Nonetheless, according to Megan Levitan, the Mayor's Office liaison to the Mission, "The Task Force will be the lead organization for Redevelopment and responsible for holding public hearings."



THE QUADRANT CONCEPT

One intriguing idea put forth by the Working Committee is the division of the Mission into four quadrants, each of which would have its own Redevelopment plan. The idea behind this is that not all sectors of the community will be ready to move ahead at once, and those that are most prepared to proceed should not be held back by those who need more preparation. The Quadrant Plan defines a Redevelopment Survey Area bound by 14th, Army, Potrero and Guerrero Streets. This square is then divided north and south by 20th Street and east and west by Folsom Street.

For more information on who and what is the Mayor's Task Force, see page 13.

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PLUS: Women's Kulture Klatch, Mission District Calendar, Round World Music Review . . . and more !

Neighborhood Self-Reliance Loan Program

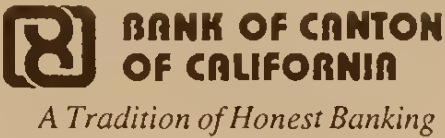
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TAKEOVER CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

the Mayor's Office of Housing Community Development Block Grant Funds, tax credits, San Francisco Seismic Safety Fund, AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust and a variety of federal and City grants.

MHDC made a previous attempt to buy the Altamont in November 1993, but wasn't able to muster the money. After funding fell through last year, Vin Kumar, the hotel's trustee and son of its owner, Dhanji Patel, turned down several private offers to buy the Altamont and waited as the nonprofit reapplied for funding. Given the hotel's history of code violations as well as the substandard conditions that have been found at other Patel-owned hotels, the family's eagerness to sell the Altamont to a nonprofit comes as somewhat of a surprise. Kumar explains, "MHDC is the best buyer we can get, and there seems to be widespread neighborhood support. Over the years, the tenants got more difficult; a lessee operation was just not viable. We saw a nonprofit such as MHDC as the best buyer who could come through and perform. I even lowered the price just to make it happen. I want to leave somewhat of a legacy so that in the future my children can drive by and say at least we contributed something to the neighborhood. You know we are an immigrant family that has done well and now we want to give something back to the community, so that we could have something we could take pride in."

The Altamont, one of the oldest and largest residential hotels in the Mission, has been plagued with problems for years. In addition to its dilapidated condition, the hotel has not been immune to the prostitution and drug activity that occurs daily at its doorstep on 16th Street. According to Kumar, a few years ago he sued and forced out a lessee who was using the hotel as a site for selling drugs. Such incidents alarmed hotel and neighborhood residents.

Code violations that have been found

at the Altamont include lack of sufficient heat and proper plumbing.

Of course physical deterioration, building code violations, and crime are nothing new among Mission residential hotels. Residents, social service

community base will create other improvements, such as greater tenant concern for and participation in the neighborhood. "Mission hotels get no scrutiny, no code enforcement and consequently they attract people who don't want scrutiny either ... The Altamont can serve as an example that we can get these hotels up to



providers, police and code enforcement officials agree that the rehabilitation of the Altamont is a significant step in the right direction.

"Part of the economic development and viability of the Mission is dealing with these SRO hotels," comments Al Ribaya, president of Mission Merchants Association.

The real impact of MHDC's takeover of the Altamont is seen as the creation of a model of stable, well-managed SRO housing.

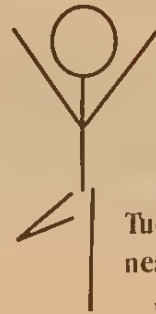
"Given the terrible conditions in that location you need a strong center piece to create a positive anchor ... it creates a stronger community base," remarks Randy Shaw of Tenderloin Housing Clinic. He points out that a stable com-

code and make them into something besides the prostitution and drug havens that they are."

If successful, the Altamont project can also be a prescription for other SRO owners. "Owners who have their heart in the right place but end up walking away or divesting will know that there are buyers out there that can help them ... It teaches people that dollars alone aren't going to measure all the advantages and disadvantages. It shows them a relationship that nonprofits can have with private developers. In terms of improving the quality of housing, if this is a way an owner wants to comply with housing codes, to have clean and decent housing by selling it to a non-profit like Mission Housing, then that's fine," comments Ilene Dick of the City Attorney's Office Task Force on Code Enforcement.

Public support for the project is strong. "If there is any one housing group in the Mission that should be taking on the SRO problem, it's Mission Housing," says Ribaya. Such support is a welcome change of circumstance for MHDC, which recently faced controversy over its low-income family housing project at 21st Street and South Van Ness. Nonetheless, residents and officials are guarded in their optimism. "The Altamont is just the first step. You have to deal with the problems on Mission between 16th and 20th," says Shaw.

The consensus is that the presence of longer-term residents in the Altamont, who are concerned and active in their community, can only make the neighborhood better.



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Tenants, landlords, homeowners, builders and homeless advocates rarely agree on anything.

Why do they all support Prop. G?

Because the city's building dept. won't do its job.

**VOTE
YES**

FOR LESS RED TAPE

- Homeowners and contractors face long delays for remodeling and home construction projects.
- The S.F. Bureau of Building Inspection has set up an endless permit process and charges outrageous fees.

**VOTE
YES**

FOR SAFE HOUSING

- Thousands of our city's most vulnerable residents, *including children, seniors and people with AIDS*, live amidst rodents, roaches, falling plaster and no heat.
- The Bureau of Building Inspection has refused to properly enforce the city's housing codes.

**VOTE
YES**

FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Bureau of Building Inspection isn't accountable to any publicly-elected official or body
- Prop. G puts a citizen's panel in charge of BBI.
- Prop. G is free! *The City Controller has said Prop. G won't cost taxpayers anything!*

WE SUPPORT PROP. G !

SF Board of Realtors	Tenderloin Housing Clinic	SF Democratic Party
SF Apartment Association	SF Tenants Union	Supervisor Annemarie Conroy
Residential Builders Assoc.	Coalition on Homelessness	Supervisor Bill Maher
Margaret A. Verges	SF AIDS Foundation	Supervisor Angela Alioto
John Maher Irish-American	National Organization for Women	Supervisor Carole Migden
Democratic Club	Calvin Welch	Supervisor Kevin Shelley
Planning Association for	Sue Hestor	Supervisor Susan Leal
Divisadero Street	Coleman Advocates for Children	Supervisor Terence Hallinan
Richmond Chinese-American	& Youth	SF Green Party
Democratic Club	Companeros de Barrio Pre-School	Tom Amniano
Sunset District Chinese-	Mission Housing Dev. Corp.	Mabel S. Teng
American Democratic Club	North of Market Planning Coalition	Latino Democratic Club
Southern Heights Democratic	Coalition for Low-Income Housing	Arab-American Democratic Club
Club	Council of Community Housing	Fillmore Democratic Club
Tim Carrico, former Rent Board	Organizations	Asian-Pacific Democratic Club
Commissioner	Hotel & Restaurant Employees &	Richmond District Democratic
Eureka Valley Arts & Trails	Bartenders Union, Local 2	Club
Network	SEIU Local 14	Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/
Golda Meir Democratic Club	SEIU Local 535 (DSS Chapter)	Bisexual Democratic Club
Presidio Avenue Assoc. of	United Taxicab Workers	Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay
Concerned Neighbors	Chinese Coalition for Better	Democratic Club
Beideman Area Neighborhood	Housing	Bernal Heights Neighborhood
Group	SF Tomorrow	Center
Rev. Laird J. Stuart	The Housing Committee	Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood
Rev. Peter J. Sammon	St. Peter's Housing Committee	Council
Rev. Bruce Der-McLeod	Swords to Plowshares	Toby Levine, City Planning
Rev. John Anderson	Karen Klein, Mental Health Assoc.	Commissioner
Rev. Robert Warren Crome	Neil Gendel, Lead Poisoning	Jim Morales, former Planning
Rev. Laurence R. Monroe	Prevention Project	Commissioner
Rev. Jeff S. Gaines	Gordon Chin	Dr. Leland Y. Yee, President,
Rev. Glenda Hope	Lerner & Nathan Architects	SF Board of Education
Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn	CA Legislative Council for Older	
Father Louis Vitale	Americans	(Partial listing)

Stop this abuse of the public trust.
VOTE YES ON PROP G
the Safe Housing Initiative.

CITY BUNGLES LEAD POISONING CASE

SYSTEM FAILURE

by Victor Miller

One of the worst cases of child lead poisoning in San Francisco has defied the remedial efforts of two City departments since March 1994. Neither the Public Health Department nor the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) has been able to compel the correction of the hazardous environmental conditions that gave Andres Nava a lead blood level 400 percent higher than the toxic level established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In fact, the initial abatement order given by BBI made the situation worse.

In January 1994, Claudia Nava, a 19-year-old single mother of two, took her eldest son Andres in for a routine check up by a private physician. Andres, then 20 months old, was found to have a blood lead of 61 mcg.\dL. The CDC considers any level over 15 to be elevated. Andres was treated with iron pills and other medications, but the real curative steps in childhood lead poisoning require elimination of the causative factors in the home.

Buildings built before 1950, when lower lead standards for house paint were enacted, are very likely to contain high levels of lead in the walls. In San Francisco, 75 percent of the housing units have been painted with lead paint, the highest percentage of any county in the state. Eight percent of all children tested by the Department of Public Health Citywide had lead poisoning; in the Mission, 12 percent of the children tested in a door-to-door survey in 1993 had lead poisoning. All lead poisoning cases in children are reported to the S.F. Health Department's Childhood Lead Prevention Program.

Despite the severity of Andres' test results, it was not until March 1, more than a month later, that the Health Department inspected his home at 594 Valencia Street, a building with 21 apartments and a long record of code violations. The inspection showed elevated lead levels coming from a number of sources in the apartment. Most seriously, the windows



Deteriorated windows seen on the back of 594 Valencia allow rain water to enter units and flake off lead paint. Photo by Eugene Kettner

of the apartment were deteriorated, allowing rain water to enter and paint to chip, flake and release lead dust into the air.

The landlord, Jun Hatoyama, who owns seven other San Francisco properties, was notified of the inspection results and given specific recommendations on lowering lead levels. Claudia Nava was given the same report with the notation "Caution: do not try to remove the lead paint. Seek the help of experts." Nava, a \$5-an-hour employee of S.F. Conservation Corps, could not afford to seek the help of experts. Not forced by the City to do anything, her landlord did nothing. During this time, Andres, like nearly all lead-poisoned children, showed no apparent symptoms. Lead toxicity

reveals itself gradually in the form of lowered I.Q., attention deficit disorder and other nervous system problems. Because of these problems, lead-poisoned children have a high school drop-out rate six times higher than average.

PODER

In April, People Organizing to Demand Environmental Rights (PODER) began a door-to-door campaign to notify tenants of Health Department findings of lead toxicity in their buildings. (At the time, the Health Department notified only the tenants of those units that had been inspected but not the other tenants in the same building; the landlord was expected to do this. Pressure by PODER has since changed this policy and all tenants are now notified of lead hazards in their building.) In May, in the course of door-knocking at 594 Valencia, Myrna Melgar of PODER met Claudia Nava and advised her to file a complaint with BBI, which she did on May 26. On June 6, Building Inspector Oscar Williams inspected Nava's apartment and cited Hatoyama for twelve Housing Code Violations; no mention was made of lead hazard; and, incredibly, the landlord was advised four times in the violation notice to simply "scrape peeling paint." All lead-poisoning literature is clear on one thing: Dry scraping leaded paint makes the problem worse by releasing large amounts of lead dust into the air.

Through the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, Nava acquired the services of attorney Wallace Oman. On July 1, Oman sent off a letter to Inspector Williams outlining the lead problem and requesting an immediate corrected violation notice be issued. Despite the seriousness of the situation, BBI did not get around to correcting its error until September 13, 2-1/2 months later. In the meantime, the landlord had gone ahead and done some dry scraping. This was bad enough; but, according to Oman, on October 11, in spite of the new notice, the landlord continued repairs and had Nava's apartment dry scraped once again. Oman says that at this point his client is reviewing her legal options. They would seem to be considerable.

This case indicates there is something more than a little wrong with the way the City is correcting what San Francisco's Comprehensive Lead Poisoning Prevention Program calls "the number one environmental health hazard facing children today." Oman feels some of the problem lies with the Health Department's lack of aggressiveness: "In other counties, health inspectors feel they have sufficient powers as health officials to compel compliance with lead safety standards. In San Francisco, the Department of Public Health believes they need a special ordinance."

In 1992, after the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance to deal with the lead problem, they turned over the actual formulation of enforcement particulars to two citizen committees. One of these, the Hazard Reductions Committee, was given six months to come up with lead reduction guidelines. After nearly two years, this committee is evidently gridlocked by the competing interests of landlords who do not want to bear the expense of cleaning up their buildings, unless they can pass it on to tenants, and tenants who feel the resulting rent increases will lead to massive displacement of low-income renters.

On the other hand, BBI, which has enforcement power under the existing Housing Code and -- as a result of the Nava case -- now includes the proper lead hazard language in violation notices, moves with incredible bureaucratic torpor. The case file on Hatoyama's building at 594 Valencia is nearly as thick as a phone book, showing poor maintenance for more than a decade. In 1991, when the building had no heat for six weeks during November and December, only after the case was referred to the District Attorney did Hatoyama correct the problem. Leaking plumbing, which exacerbates the building's lead problem, has been a recurring violation for years at 594 Valencia, meaning children have been poisoned in that building, also for years. BBI took two months to amend the life-threatening course of action that it had originally recommended, has taken no affirmative action regarding the many other children in the building at risk and was ultimately unsuccessful in getting the landlord to remove the lead in a safe manner. Melgar, angry and disgusted by BBI ineptitude, said, "They are totally unresponsive to the underlying moral dilemma that kids are being poisoned. It just business as usual with them. They don't give a shit."

Despite the fact that the extent and magnitude of the lead hazard to children has been recognized for years, San Francisco, with the worst problem in the state, seems unable to deal with the crisis.



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BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSITION A -- JAIL BONDS: YES

As unpleasant as it is to recommend building a new jail, there are compelling reasons to do so. Overcrowding at the current facility means dangerous felons are released early; San Francisco must shell out millions each year to rent cell space in Alameda county and still winds up paying stiff court-imposed fines for exceeding maximum occupancy. Conditions at the San Bruno Jail are horrendous for those locked up there and will undoubtedly lead to costly law suits. We need a new jail.

PROPOSITION B -- ASIAN ART MUSEUM BONDS: NO RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSITION C CITY HALL -- IMPROVEMENT BONDS: YES

This is even more unpalatable than approving the jail bonds; but City Hall took a real good hit in the Loma Prieta Quake of 1989 and is still a mess. Fix it.

PROPOSITION D --

SEWER REVENUE BONDS: YES

Shit happens, and more than 75 percent of the pipes in the City's sewer system that deal with it are over 50 years old. Replacing 40 miles of pipe is probably necessary, but bond redemption and interest will be paid by Citywater customers by an increase (perhaps as much as 12 percent) on the sewer service charge portion of their water bills.

PROPOSITION E -- COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN: YES

Gives women first class commission-ship at no cost to the taxpayers.

PROPOSITION F -- COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: YES

This is a cost-saving reform of the City's employee policy that eliminates automatic salary increases, sets up a one-year pay freeze that will save millions of dollars and allows the City and the unions more flexibility in negotiating labor contracts.

PROPOSITION G -- BUILDING INSPECTION COMMISSION: YES

Under the current system, building inspectors cannot be made responsive to community needs. Slumlords are given a free ride and homeowners are harassed. A citizens' commission to oversee this out-of-control bureaucracy is an idea whose time has come.

PROPOSITION H -- DOMESTIC PARTNER RETIREMENT BENEFITS: YES

Extends the same benefits to surviving domestic partners of City employees as are now given to spouses of City employees -- an important recognition of nontraditional family values.

PROPOSITION I -- RENT CONTROL: YES

The Rent Control Ordinance as currently written exempts buildings with four or fewer apartments (housing for one-third of the City's tenants) if one of the units is occupied by the owner. Unfortunately, fake owner move-ins have become an all-too-common means of jacking up rents and evicting tenants. Combating this on a case-by-case basis has proved impossible. Proposition I corrects the situation by extending and strengthening rent control.

PROPOSITION J -- PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICES: NO

City government is required by law to publish public notices of elections, meetings, contracts and other City business. Under the existing law, the Examiner,

Chronicle and Independent are the only newspapers qualifying for this rather lucrative position. Proposition J is a craftily written piece of special-interest work that would make only the Independent eligible to publish these notices. As the only legally qualified newspaper, the Independent could set its prices at whatever rate it chose. Creating a monopoly position from which the Independent can wantonly loot the public purse is bad government.

PROPOSITION K -- BREAKING UP THE RECYCLING MONOPOLY: YES

This proposition challenges Norcal's (the garbage company) monopoly on contracting for recycling with businesses. If K passes, other companies will give Norcal some much-needed competition. It also gives the Garbage Rate Board the power to set maximum garbage rates for businesses instead of leaving that up to the Norcal monopoly. Two citizens would also be appointed to the rate board, which is now made up entirely of City employees.

PROPOSITION L -- ELECTION TASK FORCE: NO RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSITION M -- SIDEWALK STUPIDITY: NO

This is another of Mayor Jordan's unenforceable and unconstitutional attempts to apply the simplistic solution of police power to the complex problem of homelessness. Proposition M would make it a crime to sit or lie down on public sidewalks in designated commercial areas ideas play well with the Yahoo element among voters and serve to distract attention from the Jordan Administration's failure to develop a real homeless policy.

PROPOSITION N -- WELFARE FOR SLUMLORDS: NO

80 percent of welfare recipients' checks would be paid over to the same miserable batch of slumlords who have sucked the lifeblood of the homeless program for the last decade. Anybody who didn't feel like residing in one of the rat-infested hellhole hotels chosen for the program would have their benefits terminated. This is insanity, and criminal insanity at that.

PROPOSITION O -- TRANSIT ASSESSMENT: YES

Proposition O backers say downtown property owners receive a disproportionate share of Muni services and should pay more. Prop. O creates a study to see exactly how much more and recommends that the Board of Supervisors act on the results of that study and assess those property owners an additional per-square-foot tax. There has been more corporate whining about this issue than about anything since the child labor laws. On the other side, the blowhards at the Bay Guardian are making support of O a sort of loyalty oath for all who want to wear the PC label. Still, a "yes" vote means better bus service.

PROPOSITION P -- WATERFRONT RENOVATIONS NO RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSITION Q -- NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PREVENTION: YES

\$900,000 per year for three years to help neighborhood groups prevent crime is money well spent.

PROPOSITION R -- A COMMISSION ON YOUTH MADE UP ENTIRELY OF YOUTH: YES

This good idea also costs nothing, according to the Controller.

CANDIDATES FOR SUPERVISOR

MARIA MARTINEZ -- A long time Mission District activist, Maria Martinez has strong ties to this community and is the only candidate for Supervisor that actually resides in the Mission. She has wide spread support from community residents, small businesses and tenants. An outsider, who has received few large campaign contributions, her campaign has been largely ignored by the major.

Vote for a local.

TOM AMMIANO -- Ammiano is one of three members of the Board of Education who voted to support Mission District parents and teachers in their fight to save Moscone School and Las Americas Children's Center from relocation and

consolidation. His experience as a stand-up comedian should be helpful in cutting through the tedium and nonsense that characterizes Supervisor meetings.

SYLVIA COURTNEY -- Courtney has a thirty year history as a civil rights activist that includes the anti-Vietnam War Movement and the formative years of the United Farm Workers Union. Courtney has worked since 1984 as an instructor for the Labor Studies Department of S.F. Community College. She has solid support from a number of labor unions.

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 186

When all is said and done this measure is simply a message of hate - a product of racism which, if passed, will cause needless misery for everyone in California.

CORRECTION

In the October issue of the New Mission News, in a story titled "Komotion Weathers the Storm", it was incorrectly reported that the Playground, a private club, on 17th Street had been cited by the

S.F. Fire Department. The Playground has not been cited and the proprietor is, in fact, making improvements to the property. The News regrets the error.

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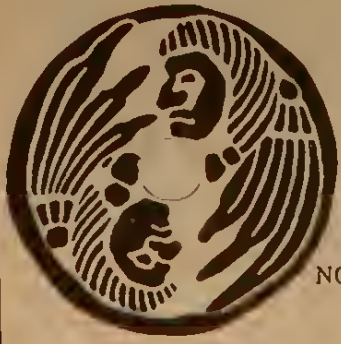
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AMERICA 502

NOTES ON THE 502ND YEAR OF THE OCCUPATION

BY ROSE ARRIETA

RESERVATIONS: TOXIN TARGETS

East of Palm Springs, a fight is going on that will determine how closely toxic dumpers will have to heed Indian land rights. If the Cahuilla people lose, it could open the doors for complete disregard of federal regulations protecting those rights.

On the 28,000-acre Torres-Martinez reservation of the Cahuilla Indian nation sits the largest pile of human waste in the state, and some say, the country. The dump is so toxic, it combusts spontaneously. Although officials say it isn't toxic, those living on the land know better. Several members of the California Indians for Cultural and Environmental Protection (CICEP) were in San Francisco recently to announce the kickoff of Sovereignty for Survival, a campaign to inform the public throughout the state about what's going on down south at the Torres-Martinez and Cahuilla reservations.

"The word sovereignty is thrown around a lot; but for us, it is our heart and soul," says Marina Ortega, a spokesperson for the group. Ortega is one of the leaders in the battle to remove the sludge dump and to keep other dumpers from coming on to the lands. She must be doing something right: The day before she was to meet with one of the top administrators for the EPA to discuss improprieties by agency workers, her house was shot up by automatic gunfire.

"When I go away, I always wonder

what I'm going to come home to, if my home will still be there," she says. "But for this we put our lives on the line to keep what we have. Our lands and water are being contaminated. We don't see ourselves as begging for help, we see it as our last struggle to protect the land. And it's not just an issue of our own people, but an issue for everyone."

The 500,000-ton, five-story mountain of dried sludge stems from San Diego's \$3-million-per-year contract with Chino Corona Farms. Several other companies, including Kellogg; HKC, Inc., Pima Grove; and the now-bankrupt Chino Corona Farms, have dumped at the Torres-Martinez reservation. "They do it under the guise of recycling," says Ortega, "but it's toxic stuff."

So far, lead, chromium and arsenium have been identified; and engineers with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board say the mound has polluted the groundwater with heavy metals and fecal coliform bacteria. But officials at Terra Cotta -- the company that is currently running the sludge site -- say the testing was sabotaged.

\$3 MILLION CONTRACT

In 1989, Chino Corona Farms won lucrative waste disposal contracts from not only San Diego but Orange and San Bernardino counties as well. Tribal member Vincent Ibanez allowed Chino

Corona Farms to lease his property in order to develop its sludge operations. Ibanez refuses to disclose how much he was paid.

From 1989 to 1993, the sludge processing and dumping took place at the 120-acre Ibanez Farms tract on the reservation; and during that time the company never applied for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved lease. Nor did the BIA force Ibanez to obtain an approved lease -- a federal regulation -- from the Secretary of the Interior to run the operation. The company continued dumping until it went defunct. And although federal laws require the BIA to regulate tribal businesses that will impact the environment, the agency failed to do so. The deputy area director in the BIA's Sacramento office, Michael Smith, told *The Desert Sun*, a local Southern California newspaper, "It's not our responsibility to enforce environmental laws."

LAND DESECRATION

Ibanez also rejected later test results by state water quality engineers that showed the shallow aquifer underneath the dump is polluted with heavy metals and nitrates. "The corporations came in and deceived our people and caused us to fight against each other," says Rose Ann Hamilton, former Cahuilla tribal chairwoman. "They desecrate our land for money."

This summer the Torres-Martinez Tribal Council passed resolutions that demanded a halt to composting operations. A cease-and-desist order against HKC Inc., and Pima Gro Systems Inc., was issued. The companies defied the order and kept dumping and composting sewage.

The site, formerly run by Chino Corona, is now being operated by fertilizer business Terra Farms Co. BIA officials say the companies at the site will remove the sludge only if they are allowed to stay in business. "We just consider letting the companies remove the sludge while they operate to be the most prudent thing to do, Superintendent Virgil

Townsend, a BIA official in Riverside, told *The Desert Sun*.

"The most polluted of the industries have targeted what they see as the toilets of industrial society," says Bradley Angel of GreenPeace. In the past six years the industry has launched a campaign to target Indian land for official dumping. "All the reservations were being told they would be getting a deal if they allowed the toxic dumping on their lands. They had more proposals for dumps and incinerators and nuclear dump sites than anyone else," says Angel.

SLUDGE SLIDING

Sludge companies also tried to slide their sludge into the Cahuilla reservation," says Ortega. But the Cahuilla went after the city of San Diego for assigning a facility there and put enough pressure on the city that it forced cancellation of the sludge dumping plan. Even so, there is also polluted soil on the Cahuilla reservation. This separate Indian reservation, near the Riverside County town of Anza, sees between 100 to 200 trucks per day "dumping contaminated soil," says Hamilton. She says the tribe has obtained information that some of the sludge is coming from Fiesta Island, San Diego's sludge drying area.

Says Angel, "Cahuilla and Torres-Martinez are the only places where dumpers dared tribes and the BIA to stop them. The dumpers figured there were no tribal police and that they could get away with it. Now, L.A. county continues to dump on these lands. If this is allowed, it will be open season on Indian lands."

"When we move away to get away from the dump, we are moving away from our schools and our land," says Hamilton. "We are losing our language, our songs, our land. Our children can't go play outside. Their clothes are falling apart, they get bloody noses, people are ill all the time. They are moving away because of the toxic dump."

For more information on the current situation at Torres-Martinez and Cahuilla reservations, contact Bradley Angel at GreenPeace at 512-9025

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SNAP SHOTS

By Robin Snyderman

as inspired by Snap the Wonder Dog

Smoothing out the Rough Spots

Whenever I go camping with Snap, I marvel at the meticulous way she marks her territory, familiarizes herself with new aromas and, ultimately, makes her own bed.

There are many hazards out there for a little domestic critter -- from the unfriendly and (literally) wild neighbors to the seemingly uninhabitable terrain.

Just to lie down and rest, she has to pace and pace 'round the same circle of land simply to smooth out the rough spots. Once this habitability issue is addressed, she still can't sleep through till morning, because security remains a worry. If she knows other campers are nearby, she trots over to sniff them periodically. And to thoroughly protect her own people, she yelps -- oh, once every other hour or so throughout the night -- thus establishing her authority in the wild kingdom.

Wild Kingdom of Urban Living

At a meeting of the Mission Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) in September, Oscar Wolters Duran of SF SAFE talked about habitability and security issues in the wild kingdom of urban living: "How to Prevent and Respond to Illicit Activities in and around Commercial Space." He didn't exactly advise people to pace in circles, sniff their neighbors and yelp through the night -- but the principles were the similar.

And on October 20th, an inspection of the 16th & Mission Cafeteria by the Code Enforcement Task Force (CETF) confirmed the wisdom of these principles.

Byway of background: Wolters Duran formulated this safety talk in response to concerns raised by people attending a previous MAHA meeting which had focused on the security in and around SRO hotels. While most MAHA participants pointed to poor resident management as the cause for many problems, landlords like Ted Patel of the Union Hotel asserted that many SROs along Mission Street get blamed for the illicit activities of the 16th & Mission Cafeteria. Mr. Patel, who owns the building in which the Cafeteria operates, felt that much of the responsibility for his building's physical improvement rests with his commercial tenant. Once these matters were resolved, he stated, he would like the newly formed SRO Outreach Team to meet with his hotel's residents and help his staff improve the quality of life within the building.

For Wolters Duran, Ilene Dick of the CETF and others at that previous meeting, the prospect of reaching these SRO tenants was incentive to proceed with the SAFE presentation. Urging commercial owners to make their presence known, greet people who come and go, and acquaint themselves with neighbors, Wolters Duran pointed out that owners who are familiar with the trouble-makers as well as the problem-solvers are more likely to maintain a safe shop. The presentation further stressed that owners who maintain a clean, scrubbed, clutter-free and steam-cleaned building are less likely to attract illicit activity at all. Wolters Duran cautioned people working inside a commercial space to maintain a clear view of things happening outside as well.

Protecting Your People

Shortly thereafter, Ilene Dick noted an increase in Mission Police reports about the 16th & Mission cafeteria. And at another community meeting in the Mission, Wolters Duran learned that the CETF was indeed investigating the 16th & Mission Cafeteria. When he returned to his office, he discussed this matter with coworker Rita Wong, who helped found

the Mission's Chinese Merchant Business Improvement Association last November. The owners of the 16th & Mission Cafeteria, active members of this Association, are a monolingual Chinese-speaking family.

"So often, crime prevention specialists at SAFE work with neighbors and the Code Enforcement Task Force to close down crack houses and troubled buildings," Wolters Duran explained, harking back to last year's closing of the New Canton Restaurant. "Because Rita was working so closely with concerned Chinese merchants along the Mission corridor, this seemed like our first chance to help a threatened commercial operator improve his business before it's too late."

Ilene Dick agreed. "Rita and Oscar from SAFE have taken a lead role in addressing the problems at 16th & Mission, and they really should be commended."

Specifically, on September 8th, SF SAFE coordinated a meeting at Mission Housing Development Corporation with Ilene Dick, Phil Lee of the Mission Police Department and the Cafeteria owners. Ted Patel, who was invited to the meeting, could not attend.

Although Phil Lee held a tall stack of police reports about drug activity at the 16th & Mission Cafeteria, Cafeteria owner Mr. Poon pointed out (with the translation assistance of SF SAFE's Rita Wong) that the majority of reports responded to calls from within the store itself. After numerous attempts to shoo people out, and two brutal attacks against him and his family, Mr. Poon felt that calling the police was his only recourse. Ironically, it was precisely these phone calls which forwarded his case to the CETF.

After an hour or so of discussions, it was clear to all present that the Poon needed help taming the wild kingdom of 16th & Mission.

"We did a Security Analysis for them the next week," explained Rita Wong. "Business owners don't know code enforcement law. But at least now they have monthly meetings to keep each other on track. We tell them all to post signs saying that 'drug activities are not tolerated,' and 'we reserve the right to refuse service to anyone.' At the 16th & Mission Cafeteria, we recommended that they clean their windows every day, establish a more uniform look, control their restrooms and move their planters for improved visibility. If people drive criminal elements away, they build up new customers."

Oscar Wolters Duran concurs. "There are many businesses that don't want drug activity, but they feel stuck. We want to help if possible, and only close a place down if there's really no choice. Mr. Poon at the 16th & Mission Cafeteria sees his clientele changing now and feels a sense of hope ... but he lost a lot of his business when the drug dealers left. He's feeling the financial burden."

Good Food. Good Price.

So October 20, when the CETF revisited the Poon's, what they saw was "not perfect, but sure a dramatic improvement," according to Ilene Dick. "Not only did the Cafeteria owners clean their shop, but building owner Ted Patel supported their efforts and put in a \$6,000 security camera."

"Now the trick is to bring in the new customers," pointed out Rita Wong. "Good Food. Good Price. It's clean and well lit."

Snap and I walked by the Cafeteria during the 16th Street October Celebration walking tour. They really have smoothed out the rough spots. Check it out!

the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

VOTES AND CURFEW

Should neighborhood groups get involved in City or state politics? Most activists say no, but I think block-level groups should be political. They should register neighbors to vote and educate them on the issues, because the more voters a community turns out, the more clout it has at City Hall. In that spirit, I'm providing a very short neighborhood voter guide:

First, YES on 186, single-payer health plan. You'll never have to pay for health care again, ever. And 4 our neighborhoods, vote YES on K, to increase recycling and recycling jobs. YES on G, to sweep away the totally inept Bureau of Building Inspections. YES on O to make downtown business pay its share for MUNI and YES on J to take City notices away from the *Examiner*.

On the other side, NO on 184, "3-strikes." Violent criminals, just throw away the key. But lock up drug users and burglars for life at \$25,000 annually per each? I don't think so. And for Goddess' sake, NO on 187! Do we want thousands of sick, uneducated, alienated kids wandering the Mission? Do we slow immigration by attacking children? I hope not.

There. I told you it would be short.

CURFEW IS COMING

Mayor Jordan has promised a curfew for youth in San Francisco, and on Oc-

tober 11, his criminal justice people came to Cesar Chavez School to pitch the plan to Mission parents. Only 20 people turned out to hear the draft ordinance, and they came up with at least that many suggestions for improving the proposed law.

"This curfew is not punitive," said Mario Paz of the Mayor's Office. "The idea is to protect the youth, who are the most common victims of violent crimes."

Modeled on a successful program in San Jose, S.F.'s curfew enforcement would not mix kids with criminals or give them an arrest record. Youth under the age of 17 would have to be off the street by midnight on weekends and by 11 p.m. on school nights. Violators would be taken to a central facility (as yet unnamed), and their parents or guardians would be called to come get them. Kids who are working; going to religious, educational or political events or who have their parents' permission would be exempt from the curfew. While at the facility, the youth would be interviewed by probation officers and social service staff. The idea is to find problems in kids' lives that are keeping them out at night, and provide counseling and services to correct them.

Among the ideas from the community: Ena Aguirre of MEPI felt the curfew should be at 10:00 on school nights; others wanted 9:00. Aguirre also called for a one-month phase-in, in which police would inform youth of the curfew's provisions and starting date.

Members of Padres Unidos worried that curfew enforcement might be discriminatory and asked if the facility staff would be bilingual. Mayor's rep Flynn Bradley promised a multilingual staff. He said the program would be enforced Citywide and monitored to detect any potential racial discrimination. Juan Pablo Gutierrez of the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission said that without a four-month review to detect unfair targeting of certain populations, he could not support the plan.

DEPRIVING KIDS OF RIGHTS?

Jose Luis Pavon, a leader of last year's student walkout at Mission High, delivered an angry protest against the curfew idea. "The City has no right to tell parents how to parent," he said. "This deprives kids of their rights to walk where they want." He promised that youth "will not stand for it. They will walk out." Honey, that got things going. Parent after parent rose to give emotional pleas for youth safety, speaking from the heart about tragedies they've suffered and their fears of suffering more. Without question, 90 percent of the crowd and a subsequent gathering at Bryant School supported the curfew. As Bradley said, "Parents feel they're losing control of their kids, and hopefully, this will help them."

The San Jose program began September 1, and according to Sgt. Dale Morgan of the SJPd, has succeeded beyond their

wildest dreams. Armed robberies against youth are down 58 percent since the curfew started, and overall crime has dropped 11 percent. Surprisingly, the program has been very cheap to run; the anticipated need for emergency housing and foster placement for youth hasn't materialized. "The program will probably pay for itself in graffiti reduction alone," says Morgan. "And we're preventing kids from being wounded, paralyzed or killed. That saves a lot of money." San Jose provides on-the-spot counseling for families at their three curfew centers.

In my view, S.F. needs at least four facilities. One central location would be too far for parents, community volunteers and even police to come. Unlike the San Jose law, the Mayor's draft ordinance calls for citing parents and youth, requiring them to appear at a later date, with misdemeanor penalties for no-shows. This seems unnecessarily bureaucratic and punitive, and should be changed.

So will there be a curfew? Civil libertarians and some youth advocates will complain, but this program has an approval rating higher than God's among City parents (and police). After a series of community meetings around town, the Mayor's office will make revisions and present the curfew to the Board of Supervisors, where anyone opposing it may be consumed by fire and brimstone.

"We hope this will be in place by the beginning of the year," said Paz. "We need to protect the youth."



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GANGSPEAK

AND YOU ASK ME WHY I LIKE TO GANGBANG?

By Athena M. Melendez

The life of a Chola never ends:
the slanging, the banging
and the claiming.
Walking in the streets late at night,
with a shanker in your dickies,
looking with fear
at every corner
for a Surcña or a Norteña
that might catch you slipping
for the last time
and you think:
"Let them catch me slipping"
---you could give a fuck.

This isn't a dream.
I live this life:
guns, drugs, tattoos,
violence and death.
What part don't you understand?
Hate carries in your mind 24-7
and love doesn't come naturally
in my varrio
or in yours.

So, no matter how far you run,
no matter where you hide,
the Chola never dies
and neither does the hate.

The home boys
the home girls,
the money, the cars,
and the respect ---
sounds cool doesn't it?
Well, in the beginning.

Why can't the Mission
be like it used to be
with one united Raza,
no hate
without the rags
the numbers
and the colors.

You know why?
Because we grew up
separated
the Mexicans
and the Central Americans.
Its all that we know.
Its all that we learned.
Its all that we'll ever know.
and ain't no one gonna change it.
Nobody cares.
Nobody feels for your dead hommies
don't think they do because they don't.

And for these sad reasons
I hide my pain
Behind the Dank and the Drank
And keep my head up,
For all the Latinas
That will one day
become the Chola
I am today.

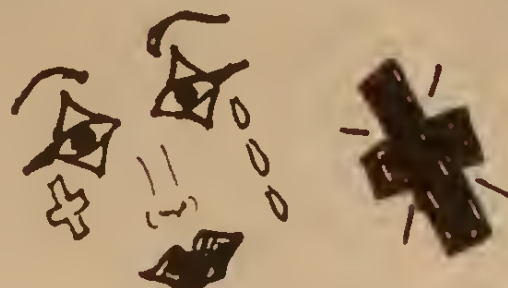
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On April 29, 1995, several thousand volunteers from business, labor, service organizations and the community will converge in the Mission to do free home repairs for qualifying homeowners. And you are encouraged to join the team -- either as a homeowner or a volunteer.

Christmas in April * San Francisco is part of a national effort to help low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners live safely and independently through volunteer repair of homes and renovation of local nonprofit facilities. Begun in Midland, Texas, in 1973, Christmas in April now has 136 affiliate programs across the country.

Working together in the tradition of an old-fashioned barn raising, Christmas in April * San Francisco's skilled and unskilled volunteers improve the safety and comfort of the homes: they install handrails and grab bars, repair unsafe stairs and porches, clean out debris from yards and garages, paint interiors and exteriors, provide minor electrical and plumbing upgrades, and generally spruce up the homes. At one project, volunteers built a 40-foot wheelchair ramp, enabling the resident to leave her home unaided for the first time in years.

All hands-on work takes place in April, and the renovations are free of charge to the beneficiaries.

In partnership with the Mission Housing Development Corporation, Christmas in April * San Francisco volunteers have cleaned, repaired, and painted several homes in the Mission. They have also refurbished several neighborhood nonprofit agencies, including the Women's Building, Centro del Pueblo, Valencia Gardens Child Development Center, and the Jon Sims Center for the Performing

Arts. Many Mission residents have generously participated in these projects.

"Our goal is to get everyone to pitch in, contribute that they can, and work together," says CinA*SF Executive Director Sam Lawson. "Christmas in April sponsors and volunteers make a direct and visible contribution to the community. And they walk away from Christmas in April Day with a renewed confidence that we can change some of the things that seem overwhelming."

Homeowners who are elderly or disabled, who fall within federal low-to-moderate income guidelines, and who live in the home needing the repairs are eligible for the program. If your home needs repair or you know of someone who qualifies for CinA*SF's program, we encourage you to apply by calling the Christmas in April office at (415) 905-1611. You can also contact Daniel Hernandez of the Mission Housing Development Corporation at 864-6432 or Gloria Bonilla, Director of Centro Latino de San Francisco at 861-8758 for more details.

The application deadline is November 30, 1994.

In addition to their work in the Mission, Christmas in April * San Francisco volunteers will clean, repair, and paint in the Oceanview-Merced-Ingleside, Bernal Heights, Bayview, Potrero Hill and Sunset neighborhoods.

This program couldn't exist without the tremendous support of local volunteers, so we need you! Please call the Christmas in April * SF office at 905-1611 if you have energy, expertise, or materials to donate. With your help, we can make a difference in the Mission.

SCHOOL DISTRICT THWARTS MISSION PARENTS

by Victor Miller

Parents' and teachers' year-long struggle to save Las Americas Children's Center and Moscone School has been defeated by a 4-to-3 vote of the San Francisco Board of Education. The Board approved a plan by Superintendent of Schools Bill Rojas to demolish both facilities and relocate them in a new building to be constructed one block away at 20th and Treat, former site of John O'Connell High School. Opponents of the plan say it will put kids in an overcrowded environment with 75 percent less outdoor open space. O'Connell moved to the Sunset District following damage to its Mission building by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. As what is described as a state-of-the-art high school, O'Connell will be relocated at the site at 20th and Treat vacated by Las Americas/Moscone.

Since this plan first came to the attention of the public last year, it has been the flash point of a power struggle between Rojas and the parents and teachers of the three schools. The Board of Education's October 11th meeting was the last in a series of boisterous public battles on the issue. Speaking in favor of the Rojas plan were heads of community and educational institutions such as Mitch Salazar, director of the Real Alternatives Program; Sam Ruiz, head of Mission Neighborhood Centers; Rosario Anaya, Executive Director of Mission Language and Vocational School and Gene Royale, Director of the Urban Institute at San Francisco State University. They were frequently booed and hooted at by parents and teachers in attendance.

Most, if not all, of the honchos who spoke in favor of the Rojas plan were from groups that either were already receiving funds from the school district or would be likely candidates once the plan is implemented. The San Francisco Independent reported that Gene Royale is allied with the Cesar Chavez Institute, which had recently received a \$100,000 contract from the School District. Royale denied any connection between his support of the Rojas plan and the contract award.

As with all of the past year's meetings on this issue, not a single parent or teacher from any of the three schools came forward in favor of the site switch proposal. Ruth Warner, a parent with kids at Las Americas, told Board members: "We have a right in a democratic system to make our feeling heard and make our elected officials act on our concerns." She called the fight to save the schools "a frustrating and disempowering process."

Early on, hardball political gamesmanship was in evidence when Rojas put

increasing pressure on Las Americas site manager Frank Lopez to squelch dissent among parents. In February, after Lopez supported a petition drive by parents that collected over 600 signatures to keep Las Americas/Moscone where they are, he was severely criticized by Rojas. In May, after 12 years at Las Americas, Lopez was removed as site manager.

Part of the bitterness this issue has generated arose from the ambiguity of the role of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mission Schools. Composed of a group of parents and teachers from the affected schools, this committee was created by the Board of Education's Building and Grounds Committee to deal with the Rojas plan and the issue of bringing the Mission Education Center, an immigrant education facility located for several years in Noe Valley, back to the Mission.

The Ad Hoc Committee went through an exhaustive process of looking at alternative plans for the three schools (without the staff support the School District had promised). It was obviously intended to be something more than an advisory board: It held a referendum supervised by the League of Women Voters in which parents, teachers and administrators voted on the Rojas plan.

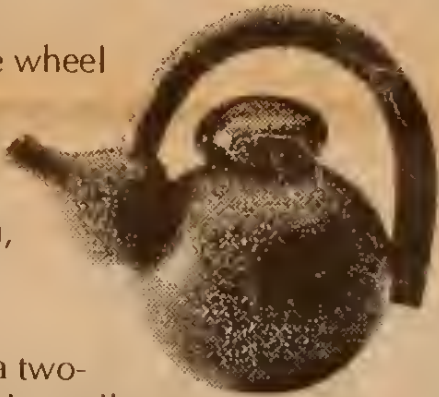
The School District initially agreed to have this referendum in May but managed to delay it until after the June 1994 General Election, in which San Francisco voters approved a \$95-million school bond issue. Part of this money was intended for the Rojas plan. When the referendum was finally held, the results showed community sentiment was against the Rojas plan by an 8-to-1 margin. Parents and teachers now felt that they had a mandate that would prevail before the Board of Education.

But the Superintendent's plan, supported by articulate and long-term players in the arena of community politics, prevailed. Voting with the parents were School Board members Tom Ammiano, Angie Fa and board president Leland Yee. Voting against them were Steve Phillips, Dan Kelly, Carlota del Portillo and Jill Wynns. As always in these matters, there is talk of a law suit; but so far it's just talk. Still unresolved is the future of Mission Education Center. Almost all speakers at the School Board meeting agreed Mission Education Center should return to the Mission; and this was always part of the Ad Hoc Committee's proposal, but there are currently no plans to do so.

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AQUI ESTAMOS, PERO DONDE VAMOS? HERE WE ARE BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?

GUEST OPINION BY RICHARD MARQUEZ

On October 16, 1994, I was one of thousands of Latinos who marched through the barrio streets of East Los Angeles to the downtown epicenter of finance and political governance. The sleeping giant had awakened, as an emergent immigrant Latino majority (in the nation's largest and most profitable manufacturing center) stood and delivered a powerful message of opposition to the War on Immigrants. It was the largest Latino mobilization in the history of the United States.

Without question, Los Angeles is an immigrant war zone and has been for more than 100 years; and the Democratic and Republican parties, in particular, have played the role of natural-born immigrant killers. The assaults on immigrants have been unrelenting:

- * During the 1992 rebellion in South Central Los Angeles, the LAPD and the INS went door to door, arresting people without papers. More than 1,000 immigrants were arrested and deported by the INS and LAPD, and at least 50 Latino men were murdered.

- * A bipartisan effort packaged together a disaster relief bill in February, 1994, denying long-term assistance to undocumented immigrant earthquake victims. The INS carried out random search-and-seizure missions in immigrant homeless encampments.

- * In 1992, Dario Miranda Valenzuela was shot twice in the back on the border by Border Patrol agent Michael Elmer and abandoned to die. Elmer dragged Miranda 50 yards down a gulch and propped him up under a tree in the desolate canyon. Elmer was brought up on murder charges, and a jury acquitted him.

- * The two-party dictatorship; President Clinton; Governor Pete Wilson; Attorney General Janet Reno; the U.S. Immigration Reform Commission and

California Democratic Senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, have all made good on the promise to "get tough on the illegals," taking a legal shot of breath from their lives.

The white supremacist movement is seriously contending for power in this state and throughout the country. The October 16th demonstration unleashed the 500-year rage of the Chicano-Latino community, a potential revolutionary force capable of seizing the political initiative, of carrying forward a resistance movement that goes beyond the denunciation of Proposition 187 or "get out the vote" campaigns. This potential force is capable of launching a movement that speaks to our people's needs and, most importantly, to our future.

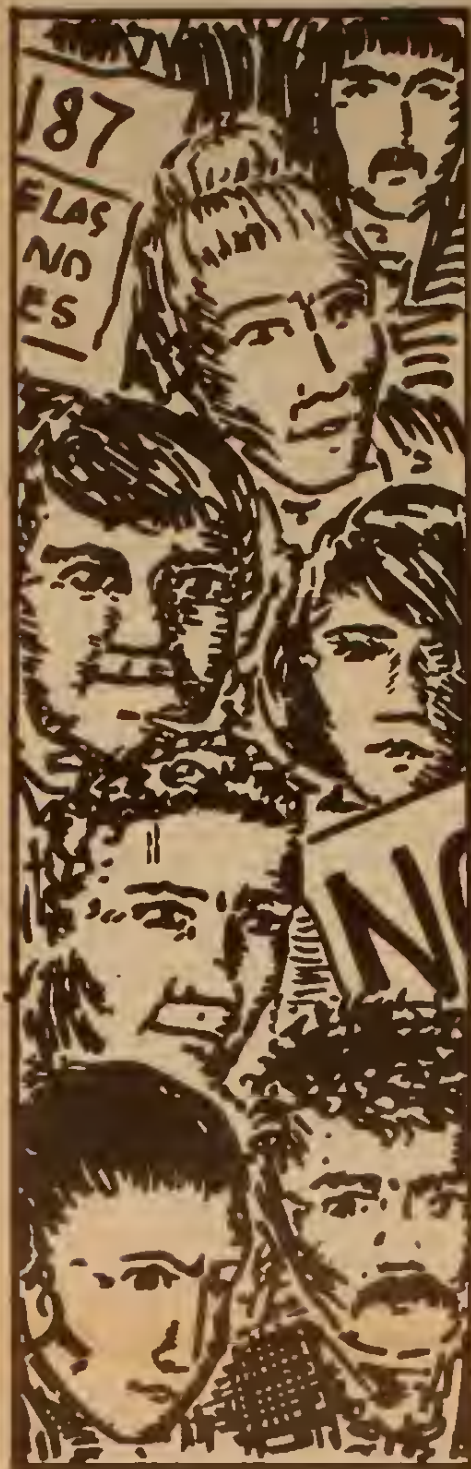
Throughout the mobilization, I and many others sensed a political and class separation between the loyal, Democratic party Hispanic leadership and the vast majority of Latinos. Historically, the same phenomenon occurred on the hacienda, between the patron and the peon. I heard voices in the streets asking, "Where do we go from here? What if 187 passes? And if it doesn't, what if I still can't get a job? Is this all there is? But I can't vote."

As the demonstration reached City Hall, and my feet almost shot to the curb, I began talking to an elderly Mexican immigrant from Jalisco. He told me that he was once a trade union activist in Guadalajara, and went on, much to my surprise, to say enthusiastically, "With all these Latinos here today we should start our own party." I responded that we had in 1967; it was called La Raza Unida Party.

"Well then, what happened?" he retorted.

"It was buried, it disappeared many years ago and it looks like it is not possible to revive," I explained.

"Well, all I know is that the only thing that is impossible is trying to put shoes on an octopus," he said wisely.



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MAYOR'S MISSION TASK FORCE

Yes folks, Frank Jordan's incarnation of the Mayor's Mission Task Force (MMTF) really does still exist. MMTF meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Mission Playground Recreation Center located at 19th and Linda Streets.

According to the MMTF Bylaws: "The MMTF is charged with assisting the Mayor to focus on the concerns of all of the people who live and work in the Mission and with identifying specific actions that the Mayor can take to address these concerns."

One example of how the MMTF fills this role is exemplified by the the MMTF taking the lead role in Redevelopment in the Mission. In a October 10, 1994, letter to Clifford Graves, Director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA), Mayor Jordan gave the Mayor's Task Force the responsibility for conducting public hearings on the Redevelopment of the Mission and instructed the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency to work with MMTF. MMTF Redevelopment hearings will begin soon.

THE MMTF IN ACTION

During the last 12 months, MMTF held public hearings and drafted a position paper on the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ); held public hearings on juvenile curfew; and organized and sponsored a tour of the Mission Army for the S.F. School Board.

MMTF also advocated for and against a variety of other issues:

Against use of public funds to pay for placement of anyone in any S.R.O. hotel owned by Charlie Patel unless and until all of the outstanding code violations on all of Patel's hotels are abated; against use of the Mission "as a dumping ground for parolees, alcoholics, drug addicts, vagrants and the mentally ill."

For the Dolores Park soccer field and a litany of other Mission District open space projects; for amending the City Charter to mandate a minimum police staffing level of 1,971 officers; for more Police for the schools, MUNI, and the Mission in general; for a moratorium on new liquor licenses in the Mission;

For the retention of the Senior Escort Program; for more supervised after-school recreation programs; for the creation of a public inehriate court and the creation of additional minimum security jail space on the grounds of San Bruno Jail.

Against Waldimar Rojas's plan to relocate John O'Connell, Las Americas, and Moscone.

Who's On It?

Authorized for 25 members appointed by the Mayor, MMTF currently has 16 members in good standing. They are:

MISSION RESIDENTS

FRANK MORALES -- School District employee and MMTF Chair: "During the first year, there were several members who actively tried to destroy the Task Force because they couldn't control it. The fact that MMTF survived in spite of that is a testament to the people who wanted to make it work. MMTF follows the universal organizational model -- 20 percent of the members do all the work. During the first year, all I got from the Mayor's office was one box of paper and a few envelopes. My friends used to joke that they called me the Chairman because I had to set up the chairs for the meetings. I even paid for postage out of my own pocket.

"Now, we are finally getting some sup-

port, including a City grant for office rent, equipment and staff. But I think it's a shame that concerned residents who donate so much of their time and so many of their evenings to searching for solutions to the problems of our community receive so little help from City government."

ETHEL NEWLIN -- Director, St. John's Educational Threshold Center and Board member, Mission Neighborhood Centers: "If nothing else, MMTF membership increases the personal power and influence of the individual MMTF members. What we actually do that is tangihle is small next to what we represent. The fact that the meetings have not been adequately advertised does not affect this. But I find it very frustrating that just a few of us are carrying the entire work load for the rest of the self-serving people who use their memberships to further their personal agendas. It's pure politics."

GLENDIA POWELL -- President, Inner Mission Neighbors: "If you weigh the skills and expertise of the individual MMTF members against the accomplishments of MMTF, it's pretty disappointing. City department heads don't use the Task Force as a resource and the Task Force only seems to get involved in questions that have already been decided. Further, only a few people have been doing all of the work. Why do the rest of the members bother to sit on the Task Force if they're not going to be involved?"

RENE CAZENAVE -- community activist: "Pieces of paper with no action are nothing but pieces of paper. When has Mayor Jordan ever taken any advice from MMTF?"

ESTHER CASCO -- assistant to the San Francisco Board of Education, Board member of Mission Language and Vocational School (MLVS).

CLIFTON COX -- retired S.F. school teacher.

JUAN PABLO GUTIERREZ -- grant writer and arts program developer.

MARY HARDEN -- School teacher, Fairmount Elementary.

RON NORLIN -- husinessman and member of Calle 22 and Cal Watch.

FLOR DE MARIA REYES - Senior Escort Service worker and senior advocate.

VICKI REGA -- Board Member of Youth For Service and Mission Hiring Hall.

ANDREW SOLOW -- Member, Sign Display Union Local #510.

JUDY WEST -- community activist.

NON-RESIDENTS

ENA AGUIRRE -- Mission Educational Projects.

BOB HERNANDEZ -- Youth Counselor, Mission Mental Health Services: "The Task Force hasn't done enough to promote anything worthwhile. We should be given more of a charge with more authority."

JUAN OYARZUN -- Infamous for his exploits with Homeless Coalition Benefits and Centro Familiar, now a teacher at John O'Connell Technical High School: According to Mayor's aide Meagan Levitan, "Mr. Oyarzun has done nothing to violate any of the membership criteria listed in the MMTF Bylaws. He hasn't even been tried for or convicted of any crime." Won't that look good on a resume!

DEPARTURES

In the past year, six Task Force members failed to attend the minimum number of meetings required by the hylaws (four) and consequently are no longer members. Also, eight Task Force members resigned.



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CAUTION:

PROPOSITION O Won't Help MUNI, But It Will Cost San Franciscans Their Jobs.

The Municipal Railway is the City's lifeline, and all San Franciscans want to see the newly created Transportation Commission implement reforms which will improve transit service and efficiency. Unfortunately, Proposition O — the transit tax proposal on the November ballot — won't solve MUNI's problems. Here are four reasons to say NO to Prop. O:

1. NO REFORM:

Proposition O proposes levying the largest S.F. tax increase in 25 years but contains no plans, proposals or requirements for improving service, reducing MUNI crime or cutting waste and inefficiency.
2. JOB LOSS:

San Francisco lost 34,000 jobs during the last three years, according to the Department of City Planning. Prop. O will dramatically raise costs and give large and small employers a powerful incentive to move jobs out of San Francisco.
3. BLANK CHECK:

Proposition O does not guarantee any additional city money for MUNI. Prop. O does not require that the new revenues increase total revenues available for transit," says the City Controller's official analysis in the ballot book.
4. GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD:

It makes no sense to commit more revenues to MUNI unless they are spent wisely. A new MUNI switching system is more than \$30 million over budget. Absenteeism has led to many missed runs, according to a study commissioned by the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee. **MUNI's existing revenues must be spent more effectively!**

San Francisco needs better transit service, not more lost jobs!

On November 8, Join These and Other Concerned San Franciscans in Voting **NO** on Proposition O!

Mayor Frank Jordan
Supervisor Tam Hsieh
Supervisor Bill Maher

Robert K. Werbe, Member, Public Utilities Comm
Morton Miller, Member, Public Utilities Commission
Yosin (Sol) Salmo, Member, Public Utilities Comm
Marion Osteo, Member, Public Utilities Comm
A. Lee Munson, Member, Civil Service Commission
George N. Kasturos, Member, Civil Service Comm.
Susan Lowenberg, Member, S.F. Planning Comm
John L. Malinori, Member, Parking & Traffic Comm
Helen Hobbs, Member, Parking & Traffic Comm
Rebecca Castenedo Member, Health Commission
George Yamasaki, Jr., Member, Social Services Comm
Earl Rynerson, Member, Social Services Commission
Jim Herlihy, Member, Public Library Commission
Jonis Zivic, Member, Public Library Commission
Walter Jebe, Member, Public Library Commission
Bella Forrow, Member, Recreation & Park Commission
Vincent J. Ravetti, Member, Rec. & Park Commission
Jack Ertolo, Member, Fire Commission
Normo M. Malinar, Member, Fire Commission
David Gruber, Member, Res. Rent Stab. & Arb. Board
Katherine Nash, Member, Res. Rent Stab. & Arb. Board
Barbara R. Meskunos, Member, Housing Authority
C. Dan Cloy, President, Juvenile Probation Comm
Horriet Salarno, Member, Juvenile Probation Comm
Frank Cook, Member, Juvenile Probation Comm.
Ike Felzer, Member, Board of Permit Appeals
Wayne Alba, Board of Permit Appeals
Ethel Davies, Member, War Memorial Bd. of Trustees

Robert F. LaRocco, Member, S. F. Arts Commission
William Meyer, Member, Arts Commission
Charles H. Page, Member, Asian Art Commission
Midori Wedemeyer, Member, Asian Art Commission
Ian Wilson, Member, Asian Art Commission
Anthony Sun, Member, Asian Art Commission
Dano Dirickson, Member, Asian Art Commission
John J. Moylon, Member, Golden Gate Bridge Board
Hodie Reed, Member, Housing Authority
Andrew R. Lolli, Member, Small Business Adv. Comm.
Morie Brooks, Member, Airports Commission
Jim Lineberger, Member, Veterans' Affairs Council
Bill Lee, Member, Commission on Aging
Anthony J. Zanze, Member, War Mem. Bd. of Trustees
Harold Kirker, Member, Landmarks Presv. Adv. Board
Nicholas Sapunor, Member, Landmarks Presv. Adv. Bd.
Proctor Jones, Member, Landmarks Presv. Adv. Board
Preston Cook, Member, Port Commission
William S. Breall, M.D., Mem., Retirement System Bd.
Louise Beo, Member, San Francisco Stadium, Inc.
Nick Roomel, Member, Film & Video Arts Commission
Joyce Carrigan, Member, Film & Video Arts Commission
Clarence R. Stern, Member, Redevelopment Agency
Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club
City Democratic Club of San Francisco
Raoul Wollenberg Democratic Club
S.F. Republican County Central Committee
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Block Chamber of Commerce
North Beach Chamber of Commerce

Coalition for Better Housing
San Francisco Apartment Association
Downtown Association of San Francisco
Union Square Association
Golden Gate Restaurant Association
San Francisco Small Business Network
S. F. Building Owners and Managers Association
Julia Hsiao, Former Exec. Dir., Asian Business League
Fred Jordan, Past President,
San Francisco Block Chamber of Commerce
G. Rhea Serpon, President, S.F. Chamber of Commerce
Stephen Carnell, S.F. Council of District Merchants
Al J. Falchi, Golden Gate Restaurant Association
Scott Hauge, Small Business Owner
Lauren S. Mollos, Mollos & Foote Architects
Monny Rosales, President, Col. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
James Haas, Farmer Chair,
Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation
Stephen L. Taber, SPUR
Charles Moore,
San Franciscans for Responsible Government
Gwen Kaplan, Small Business Owner
Brook Turner, Executive Director,
Coalition for Better Housing
Mervyn Silverberg,
San Franciscans for Neighborhood Enterprise
Edward Lawson, Executive Director,
Union Square Association
Kenneth J. Schmier, Transportation Activist

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NOVEMBER 1994

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 BROTHER MINISTER: THE ASSASSINATION OF MALCOLM X



This explosive new documentary dares to reveal the mystery surrounding the assassination of Malcolm X. **BROTHER MINISTER** uncovers the men convicted assassins. Talmaadge Hayer claims were his true accomplices; it probes the influence of two of the convicted assassins, it examines recently de-classified FBI and NYND intelligence documents; it investigates the origins of the Nation of Islam and contains never before seen film footage and photographs! **BROTHER MINISTER** adds new pieces to the puzzle of history. It crosses the path Farrakhan has warned the world not to cross. Narrated by Roxie Lee Brown. Music by Roshir Hayens and Annie Lemmas. Produced by Lewis Kesten. Directed by Jack Baxter. In Color. 16mm. 117 mins. 1994. USA.

WEST COAST THEATRICAL PREMIERE. WEO at 2:00, 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 A TRIBUTE TO MARIE WINDSOR!

Two outstanding movie classics starring the beautiful **MARIE WINDSOR**! Join us at The Roxie for this special evening with Miss Windsor, who will discuss her career and answer your questions!



THE KILLING Kubrick's caper classic has Marie as the scheming, double-crossing wife of Eliza Cook, Jr. It's a performance as brazen as the film itself. Also starring Sterling Hayden and Vinne Edwards. Screenplay by Jim Thompson. Directed by Stanley Kubrick. In B&W. 35mm. 83 mins. 1956. USA. **THUR at 7:00**

THE NARROW MARGIN Here Marie plays a gangster's widow being transported by train to testify against her husband's killers. A pair of hit-men board the train in an effort to silence her! Also starring Charles McGraw. Directed by Richard Brodhead. In B&W. 35mm. 70 mins. 1952. USA. **THUR at 9:15.** Miss Windsor will appear in person at 8:30. Both films will be presented in beautiful NEW 35mm PRINTS!

FRI. NOVEMBER 11-THURS, NOVEMBER 17 THE LISA THEORY



The Lisa Theory may be a theory about how difficult it is to date girls named Lisa. It may also be a theory about how difficult it is for twenty-something, skateboarding, post-post-punk San Francisco musicians to hold on to their girlfriends and clean their Smith-of-Market apartments. But, ultimately it's a theory about this not-so-hot generation—one which still eagerly wants to make something out of life and remains hopeful about relationships in the oh-so ironic 1990s. Devon, lead singer, loves Lisa. Lisa, sometime drummer, dumps Devon for newer horizons. Devon, frustrated, decides not to get out of bed for a few months. The soundtrack of their lives features loud and lively San Francisco bands such as Her Majesty the Baby and Ovarian Trolley. With Devon Mori, Henry O. Yates, April Sox. Written and Directed by Steven Okazaki. In Color. 35mm. 80 mins. 1993. USA.

U.S. THEATRICAL PREMIERE! NIGHTLY at 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00; Sat, Sun, Wed mats at 2:00 & 4:00

FRI. NOVEMBER 18-THURS. NOVEMBER 24

A Roxie Round-up WESTERNS!

A week-long program of some of the greatest American Westerns ever made—most presented in beautiful **BRAND NEW 35mm PRINTS!**



FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 & 19

JOHNNY GUITAR A beautiful new print of Hollywood's great "kinky" Western. Sexual rivalry pits a lady saloonkeeper against a vicious cattle baroness. It's a fiercely Freudian fantasy; a visually sumptuous classic rife with delicious symbolism! Starring Joan Crawford, Sterling Hayden, Mervyns Mc Cambridge, Scott Brady, Ernest Borgnine, Ward Bond. Directed by Nicholas Ray. In Color. 35mm. 110 mins. 1954. USA. **FRI at 8:00. SAT at 4:00 & 8:00**

PURSUEO Hollywood's other great Freudian Western, a gothic noir epic centering around a young man's quest to find his father's killer. The brooding cinematography by James Wong Howe underlines its deep psychological meanings. Presented in a brand new print. Starring Robert Mitchum, Teresa Wright, Dean Jagger. Directed by Raoul Walsh. In B&W. 35mm. 101 mins. 1947. USA. **FRI at 6:15 & 10:10. SAT at 2:00, 6:15 & 10:10**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

BAO DAY AT BLACK ROCK A one-armed stranger arrives in a small Western town at the close of World War II. Straching for the family of a Japanese-American soldier killed in the war, he is greeted by seemingly inexplicable, racial hatred. Starring Spencer Tracy, Robert Ryan, Anne Francis, Ernest Borgnine, Lee Marvin. Directed by John Sturges. In Color & CinemaScope. 35mm. 81 mins. 1954. USA. **SUN at 1:20, 4:40 & 8:00**

THE DEVIL'S DOORWAY Mistreatment by whites and the plight of the American Indian after the Civil War are the subject of this film. A crooked lawyer schemes to brew up a war between the tribe and some white shreppman and tense confrontations erupt! Stunning cinematography by John Alton! Starring Robert Taylor, Paula Raymond, Louis Calhern. Directed by Anthony Mann. In B&W. 35mm. 84 mins. 1950. USA. **SUN at 3:00, 6:15 & 9:40**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

THE TALL T A rare, suspenseful tale of an Arizona rancher and a young woman kidnapped by ruthless outlaws. From a story by Elmore Leonard. Starring Randolph Scott, Maureen O'Sullivan, Richard Boone. Directed by Budd Boetticher. In Color. 35mm. 78 mins. 1957. USA. **BRAND NEW PRINT! MON at 8:00**

COMANCHE STATION Indians kidnap a rancher's wife and when he goes in search of her he tangles with a mysterious woman and three hard-bitten outlaws. Starring Randolph Scott, Nancy Gates, Claude Akins. Directed by Budd Boetticher. In Color. 35mm. 74 mins. 1960. USA. **BRAND NEW PRINT! MON at 6:30 & 9:40**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

RIOE LONESOME An ex-sheriff captures a young outlaw and tries to take him in to claim the reward. The outlaw's gang bands together to prevent it. Meanwhile, Indians surround them all; tense and exciting all the way! Starring Randolph Scott, Karen Steele, Penell Roberts, James Coburn, James Best. Directed by Budd Boetticher. In Color. 35mm. 73 mins. 1959. USA. **BRAND NEW CINEMASCOPE PRINT! TUE at 8:00**

BUCHANAN RIDES ALONE An innocent cowpoke and a young Mexican man are arrested for the murder of a powerful, corrupt rancher. Starring Randolph Scott, Craig Stevens, Barry Kelley. Directed by Budd Boetticher. In Color. 35mm. 78 mins. 1958. USA. **BRAND NEW PRINT! TUE at 6:20 & 9:40**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

3:10 TO YUMA One of the last—and best—of the major Westerns filmed in black & white. A farmer takes a bloody job delivering a killer to the Yuma penitentiary. Waiting for the train, they hole up in a seedy rail-stop town while the killer's gang lies in wait. Starring Van Heflin, Glenn Ford, Felicia Farr, Richard Jaeckel. Directed by Delmer Daves. In B&W. 35mm. 96 mins. 1957. USA. **BRAND NEW PRINT! WED at 4:15 & 8:00**

THE MAN FROM LARAMIE A determined cowboy undergoes Herculean tests of courage and strength in his search for his brother's killers. Fast-paced and beautifully filmed in Cinemascope! Starring James Stewart, Cathy O'Donnell, Arthur Kennedy. Directed by Anthony Mann. In Color. 35mm. 104 mins. 1955. USA. **WED at 2:15, 6:00 & 9:45**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

THE SEARCHERS A genuine American epic. Two Texans engage in a relentless five year hunt for a young girl who's been kidnapped by a Comanche chief. Starring John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter, Veta Miles, Ward Bond, Natalie Wood. Directed by John Ford. In Color. 35mm. 119 mins. 1956. USA. **SUN at 3:30 & 7:30**

WAGON MASTER A gorgeously photographed elegy to the Old West, a pair of good-natured drifters help a wagon train of Mormons across the desert to Utah. Starring Ben Johnson, Harry Carey, Ward Bond, Joanne Dru. Directed by John Ford. In B&W. 35mm. 86 mins. 1950. USA. **SUN at 1:45, 5:45 & 9:45**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25-THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

A Tribute to LON CHANEY & TOD BROWNING

LON CHANEY—the Man of a Thousand Faces—was the consummate horror star of the silent era. His legendary insect make-up, his morbid preoccupation with physical deformity and his tragically premature death at age 47—have made him one of the most seriously speculated about of all Hollywood personalities. **TOD BROWNING** was one of the most uniquely inventive Hollywood directors of the 20s and 30s. His bizarre vision resulted in some of the most thrilling and lurid horror films of that era. His collaborations with Chaney (most of them long misused) are still considered among the greatest ever produced. The Roxie is proud to present this once-in-a-lifetime retrospective of their finest work. **NOTE** Chaney does not appear in all of Browning's films. Michael F. Blake, author of the recently published **LON CHANEY—THE MAN BEHIND THE THOUSAND FACES** will be joining us at The Roxie for the Friday through Sunday shows for a question & answer session about Mr. Chaney!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

THE UNKNOWN Chaney, kink thrower, secretly in love with the circus owner's daughter (with a phobia about men's arms around her). In an attempt to win her, he has his arms amputated! One of Chaney and Browning's strongest, most lurid films. Starring **LON CHANEY**, Joan Crawford, Norman Kerry. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 70 mins. 1927. USA. **FRI at 8:00**

THE UNHOLY THREE Chaney speaks in his only sound film! A trio of sideshow performers—a ventriloquist, a ringer, and a strong man—form an alliance to commit robberies. Starring Lon Chaney, Lila Lee, Elliott Nugent, Harry Earle. Directed by Jack Conway. In B&W. 35mm. 72 mins. 1930. USA. **FRI 6:30 & 9:45**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26



PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Chaney's most famous role! The classic tale of an opera ghost in love with a beautiful singer; Chaney's masterful make-up remains an astonishing achievement seventy years later! Starring **LON CHANEY**, Mary Philbin. Directed by Rupert Julian. SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. Approx. 90 mins. 1925. USA. **SAT at 2:30 & 7:00**

WHERE EAST IS EAST In this disturbing melodrama, Chaney plays a wild animal trapper in Indo-China who seeks cruel vengeance on his ex-wife. Starring **LON CHANEY**, Lupe Valdez. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** SILENT with synchronized music score. In B&W. 35mm. 70 mins. 1929. USA. **SAT at 4:15 & 8:50**

MARK OF THE VAMPIRE Essentially a remake of Browning's 1925 **LONDON AFTER MIDNIGHT**, this beautifully atmospheric tale of vampires terrorizing a rural village is one of the director's best sound films. Starring Byla Lugosi, Lionel Barrymore. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** In B&W. 35mm. 61 mins. 1935. USA. **SAT at 1:15, 5:45 & 10:15**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

THE BLACK BIRD A crime yarn in which Chaney plays a hunchman crook who masquerades as his crippled brother in order to elude the police. Starring **LON CHANEY**, Renee Adair. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 70 mins. 1926. USA. **SUN at 2:15 & 7:00**

WEST OF ZANZIBAR Chaney stars as a crippled magician who exacts morbid revenge on the man who destroyed his life. Starring **LON CHANEY**, Lionel Barrymore. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 75 mins. 1928. USA. **SUN at 3:45 & 8:30**

THE DEVIL OOLL An insane scientist escapes from Drexel's Island with a scheme to shrink humans to doll size. A wildly imaginative film! With Lionel Barrymore, Maureen O'Sullivan. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** In B&W. 35mm. 79 mins. 1936. USA. **SUN at 5:15 & 10:00**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS Chaney stars as an overworked police detective put to snag a vicious criminal, an evil sadist with designs on the cop's girlfriend. Starring **LON CHANEY**, Anita Page, Whisler Oakman. Directed by Jack Conway. SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 75 mins. 1928. USA. **MON at 6:30 & 9:45**

TELL IT TO THE MARINES Chaney is a tough Marine sergeant in one of his finest performances. Starring **LON CHANEY**, William Haines, Eleanor Boardman. Directed by George Hill. SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 90 mins. 1927. USA. **MON at 8:00**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

THE PENALTY Chaney is "The Buzzard", a legless criminal planning to loot the city of San Francisco. Directed by Wallace Worsley. SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 70 mins. 1920. USA. **TUE at 8:00**

MIRACLES FOR SALE Browning's last feature is a seldom seen gem about a magician/detective investigating fake seances and murder! Starring Robert Young, Gloria Holden. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** In B&W. 35mm. 80 mins. 1939. USA. **TUE at 6:15 & 9:30**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

THE MYSTIC The world of phony spiritualism and crime come under Browning's scrutinizing eye. A gypsy girl and her lover conspire with the corrupt guardian of an heiress to gain control of her fortune! With Adren Pringle, Mitchell Lewis. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 72 mins. 1925. USA. **WED at 2:15 & 6:30**

THE SHOW Browning drew from his own experiences in the carnival world to spin this bizarre tale about the lives and loves of a travelling Hungarian carnival troupe. With Renee Adoree, John Gilbert. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** SILENT. In B&W. 35mm. 70 mins. 1926. USA. **WED at 5:00 & 9:20**

FREAKS Browning's most famous—and notorious—talkie. Circus freaks take their revenge on the trapeze artist and strong-man who have violated one of their own! With Wallace Ford, Olga Barlanova, Harry Earles. Directed by **TOD BROWNING.** In B&W. 35mm. 64 mins. 1932. USA. **WED at 3:45 & 8:00**

Neighborhood BEAT

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY EUGENE KETTNER

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



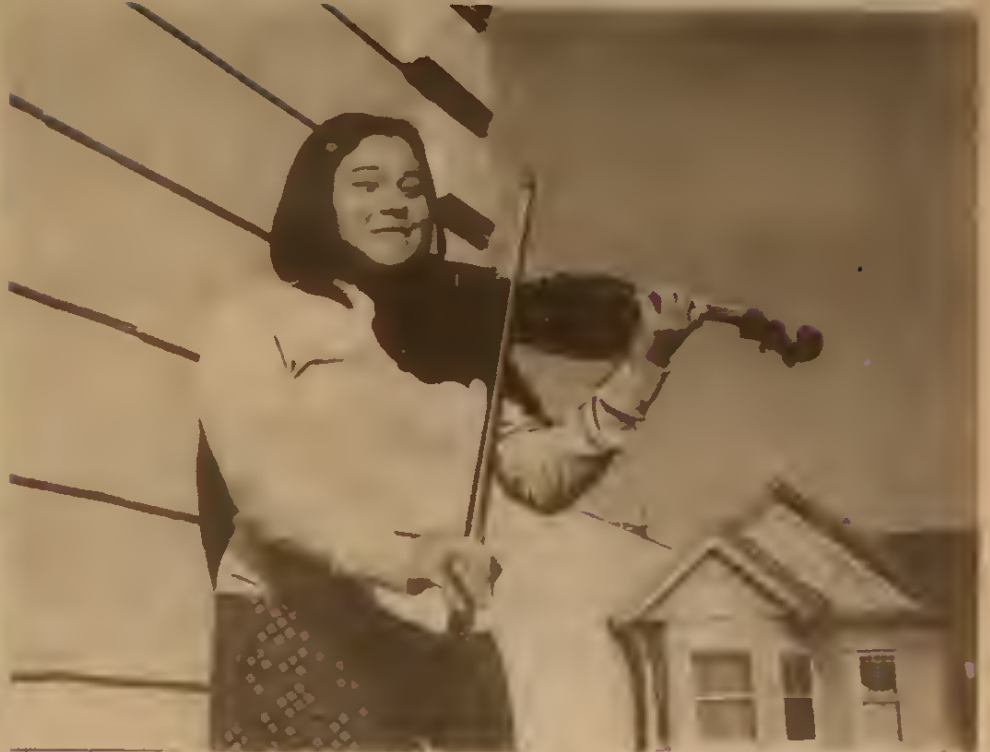
So near yet so far. Everett Middle School girls' softball team won their division championship after squashing Presidio Middle School 19-to-5. They won six out of seven games this season, and were in the playoffs with the other division when Luther Burbank Middle School squeaked out a 3-to-2 victory over Everett. Bummer. Well, they still kicked butt over six other teams, and they're tops in their division; so there.

One of the more interesting players for Everett is seventh grader Dorothy Ocampo, also known as "Too Short." Four feet tall and weighing 80 pounds, Ocampo is no cream puff at the catcher's mound. Mission playground coach Nick Jacoban

says, "Pound for pound, Dorothy is the best catcher in the league. She's tough as nails."

Jacoban will not be resting just because San Francisco's middle schools are winding down their softball season. He'll be helping out with the Mission District's Catholic Youth Organization's girls' softball league for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The teams are sponsored by individual parishes, and you do not have to be a Catholic to play. Just call Nick at 695-5008 from 2 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or drop by the Mission Playground during those hours and sign up. The playground is on Valencia Street between 19th and 20th Streets.

A RISING STAR



Ingrid Martinez played her first violin at the age of three. Fourteen years later, she is one of 80 students selected to be members of the National Guild Youth Symphony Orchestra. On November 19, she will play in the orchestra at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., for the upcoming National Festival for the Arts.

Staffers at San Francisco's Community Music Center are rather giddy at

her success. Ingrid is, after all, one of theirs. She plays in the C.M.C. orchestra and studies violin there on a full scholarship. Her expenses for the Washington trip have been covered by contributions from C.M.C.'s donors.

Ingrid is a senior at Sacred Heart Cathedral High School and plans to major in music when she goes to college. Congratulations, Ingrid!

A VISION OF CARNAVAL



Muralist Ernesto Paul poses with his work.

Connoisseurs of Mission district eyeball treats should hop on down to Harrison Street between 18th and 19th Streets and take a look at the new mural on PG&E's wall. The mural contains imagery from Carnivals throughout the world. The project is the brainchild of the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center. Fifteen artists, under the direction of Josh

Sarantitis, worked on the mural for five months. Funding was provided by PG&E; the Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA) and the Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Cleanup Fund, a City agency. There will be a formal dedication of the mural on Tuesday, November 1, from noon to 6 p.m., which will be too late for most of you reading this article. Check it out anyway. It's beautiful.

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IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

LITERACY CLASS FOR OLDER SPANISH SPEAKERS STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE

By Marcia Rautenstrauch, Literacy Teacher, City College of San Francisco Mission Campus

Serving immigrant adults from 18 to 75, the Spanish literacy program at City College's Mission Campus is one of the best-kept secret resources of the community. Why secret? Because the folks who need and want these classes can't read the signs advertising them; instead, they learn of the classes largely by word of mouth. Denied education by war or poverty in their native countries, here they begin the arduous struggle to read and write in their first language before transferring to 106 Bartlett's crowded English courses. Countless success stories notwithstanding, these literacy classes are under constant threat of closure if daily attendance falls too low. As so often in today's California, economics undermine sound teaching.

Overburdened taxpayers may well wonder whether we really need such classes. Why not enroll nonliterate students immediately in English? We'll quote Juan, a two-year veteran of the program, "I've wasted two years of my life in English classes. There I was, sitting next to a guy who had finished university in Mexico, while I didn't even know the alphabet in Spanish. The little I've learned has been in this [Spanish literacy] class." Or there's Celia, a bright young Salvadoran relatively fluent in "street English" who transferred prematurely to regular ESL classes: "The teacher writes too fast! He erases everything from the board before I can copy it." In short, people who only two years ago learned to form their first letters rapidly fall behind or drop out of conventional classes, which assume students can navigate a print-based environment.

Experts agree that we only learn to

read once. Adults who have never attended school need to gain confidence

syllables of Spanish. Three years later, she passed her G.E.D. exams in Spanish



Photo by Jorge Zepeda

quickly in their ability to learn. Learning first to read and write the language you speak makes good, intuitive sense. Spanish, moreover, is a highly logical, syllabic language, far easier to learn than English, which is just the opposite. Middle aged nonliterate students have survived here for up to 20 years -- most with fewer than 20 words of English at their command. Placing them in English classes makes less economic or pedagogical sense than teaching them to play a piano with one key.

Contrast Juan's two wasted years with one of Mission's outstanding success stories. Adriana entered the native language literacy program knowing only the

and entered intermediate English classes. Classmates attribute this accomplishment to her youth; her teachers disagree. All students are encouraged to continue studying in the G.E.D. program, also available at Mission. Even after they

master basic reading, writing and math, there are still many gaps in the "world knowledge" they need to become functionally literate in contemporary society.

If the classes are so great, why aren't they packed? While morning classes are now bursting, evening classes are more precarious. Female students have special problems attending regularly. Often they fear walking to school alone or lack childcare. All students work hard, typically at low-paying jobs with unpredictable schedules and overtime demands. Given the economy and the vulnerability of nonliterate workers, the choice of work over school is understandable.

Volunteer as a tutor, improve your Spanish and win wonderful new friends! Donate low-level Spanish reading materials! If your immigrant employee needs or is attending classes, please try to accommodate work schedules with her education. Husbands, please cook dinner so your wife can attend class nightly! Neighbors, offer babysitting or transportation so single mothers can attend! If you know someone who needs these classes but can't read this article, bring them to Rm. 408 at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, or at 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 106 Bartlett at 22nd Street. Or call (415) 550-4384 for more information. Si! Se puede!

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by L. Newman Gonzalez

New Breed Productions has recently completed its latest independent release, "No Room At The Inn." This ambitious 79-minute bilingual electronic diary documents the fate and times of San Francisco's homeless and homeless activists.

Divided into segments of montage ranging from 30 seconds to 6 minutes in length, viewers are moved through a world of situational environments populated by the "haves" and "have nots." Rescanned TV newscasts and print media headlines provide transitions from one segment to the next and arrange events in chronological order from December, 1992 through December, 1993.

1992 was the year Mayor Frank Jordan introduced his now-infamous "Matrix" program, which many homeless advocates say signaled a new phase in the war on poverty -- or the war against those living in poverty.

One transitional scene shows Mayor Jordan during a network news interview describing Matrix as a partnership between law enforcement and social service agencies to "clean up the City" by helping the homeless access available services that could provide them with housing, food, jobs and medical care.

By the spring of 1993, "cleaning up the City" had become a "quality-of-life issue" defined by the frustrations of vocal, voting taxpayers who had had it up to here with aggressive panhandling, loitering and sleeping in and around public parks and plazas, public urination and other "homeless-related activities." Jordan's law-and-order solution clashed with the reality of underfunded, stressed-out social service providers and caused an equally vocal segment of voting taxpayers to take action against what they saw as the "criminalization of poverty." Jordan's approach was not helped when Chief of Police Ribera stated at a press conference that the point of Matrix was to "drive the homeless out of the City. Or into jail."



The situation motivated artist and activist Rodrigo Betancur to keep an audiovisual journal. Opening with scenes of a candlelight vigil held in memory of those whose deaths were the result of the violence, despair or harsh existence of

living on the streets, the video is "very low budget" and has a home-movie quality to it, especially during a Homes Not Jails takeover on behalf of homeless youth, where everybody sings a satirized version of "We Are The World."

Shot spontaneously on the streets of the Tenderloin, Financial and Mission Districts, viewers get a virtual reality check as the camera takes them into the immediacy of organized street actions and political events. Though the camera we encounter some of the people we would otherwise ignore: The homeless themselves articulate for us the conditions of poverty and lack of shelter, as well as our conditional responses to them.

Betancur effectively uses the metaphors of a commercially oriented society, contrasting them with images of the daily tasks of recycling cans, hawking Street Sheets, asking for spare change, or just trying to hold on to sanity -- just a few of the things homeless people do for survival.

The message of the video is one of compassion; it shows us the characters who live outside and what they are feeling: the Street Sheet vendor with hand puppet who meticulously grooms his self esteem on a daily basis, the bag lady with two master's degrees, the frustrations of the Vietnam vet, the fears of the immigrant.

The commentary and dialogue are peppered with an eclectic wild-track featuring raw and refined samples of song, music, poetry and rants from performers, activists and homeless.

Discussions are now taking place to finalize a date for a general screening of "No Room At The Inn." What we know now is MTV Shelter and Nuestra Vision, an immigrant youth video workshop, have invited New Breed Productions to screen the piece at C.A.R.E. (Center for Community Action, Research and Education) at 25 14th St., during the second week of November. Call Chris at 703-0229 for the exact time and date.

Extra credit: For an account of the Matrix program and its effect on Christmas, see "How The Mayor Stole Christmas," by Frank Stauff and Katherine Freeman (New Mission News, Dec. 1993).

THIS ONE'S FOR GARY

GARY WHITE - 1957 - 1994

WHEN I FIRST MET GARY I DIDN'T LIKE HIM.

HEY EVE, I LIKE YER COMIX! LET'S GET MARRIED!

HE'S TOO HANDSOME! I'LL BET HE'S SOME RICH WOMANIZER! WHAT'S HE WANT WITH ME FOR?

* FAR FROM TRUTH

BUT HE PROVED HIMSELF TO BE QUITE ALRIGHT.

ON'T BE A VICTIM! HOLD YER HEAD UP HIGH! DEMAND RESPECT!

HE BELIEVED IN ME MORE THAN I BELIEVED IN MYSELF.



WE MOVED IN TOGETHER & FELL IN LOVE. HE WAS NOT ALWAYS THE BEST ROOMMATE...

I'M GONNA BE A LITTLE LATE ON THE RENT AGAIN THIS MONTH!

BUT HE HAD A GOOD HEART



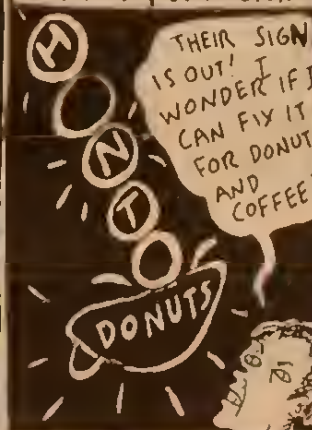
HE NEVER HAD ANY MONEY CUZ HE'D EITHER GIVE IT AWAY OR SPEND IT FOOLISHLY.



I USED TO CALL HIM MY BULLDOG CUZ HE WAS ALWAYS STICKING UP FOR PEOPLE OR CAUSES



HE WAS A NEON SIGN GUY BY TRADE & BY PASSION.



WE TRAVELLED THE COUNTRY TOGETHER IN SEARCH OF GOOD NEON. REDNECK ROADHOUSES, OLD DINERS, K-MARTS & PEOPLE OF CHARACTER



WE USUALLY LIVED & TRAVELLED BY THE SEAT OF OUR PANTS, LIVING ON SIPHONED GAS & COMIC BOOKS.



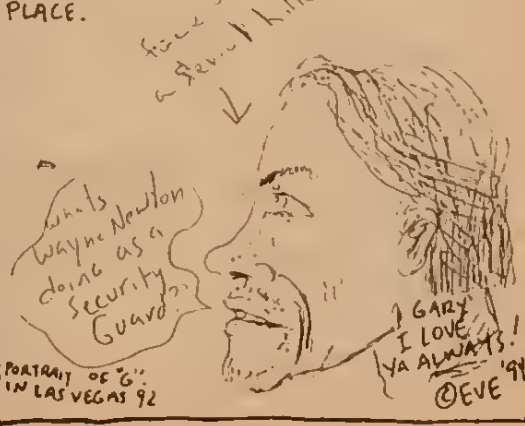
GARY NEVER FIT INTO THE WORLD OF REAL ESTATE & CAPITALISM. HE HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN MIND.



HIS DEATH STILL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM TO ME. I KEEP WAITING FOR HIM TO COME BACK SO WE CAN MAKE BAD JOKES ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.



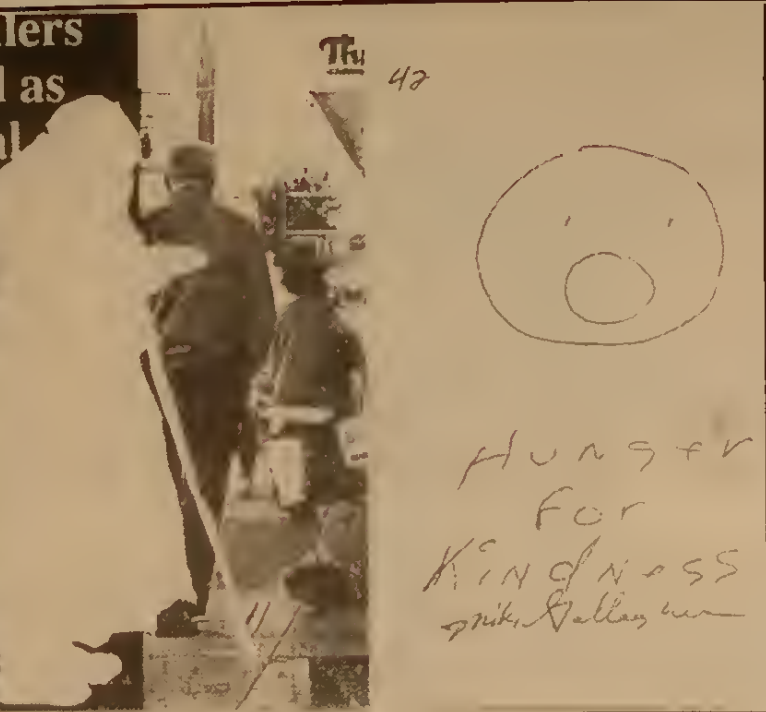
BUT IT'S NOT A DREAM & THAT REALLY SUCKS, EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE'S HAPPIER NOW, FOR ME THE WORLD IS A MUCH MORE UNHAPPY PLACE.



A BEGGARTIST WITHOUT (QU)ALMS

Panhandlers Accepted as A Normal Part of Streets

By S. ...
How does one
street people?
... residents,
themselves
... the other
... present in
... off the
... and aggressive
... offers a future
... nearby.
Although some
... can just tolerate
... have genuine
... where else are the
... Valley resident D.
They have just as much
... as he here.



From the "Beggartist Workbook"

During San Francisco's recent Open Studios, one of the artists who opened her workshop to the public was Josefa Vaughan. Viewers traipsed through her garden of images and words writ large at the Headlands Center for the Arts, where she is an affiliate artist. Some breezed through, in order to see every open studio in the place: Others stayed long enough to be trapped -- Vaughan asks nearly everyone she meets to fill out a storyboard: a small sheet of paper with rectangles on it for autographs, images or statements.

"I'm ready for the person who asks, 'What goes on in this studio?'" says the artist with a smile. "I say, What do you want to go on? Then, I ask them for a storyboard." Vaughan, 39, has short hair and a Texas drawl and is very good at talking with people. "People are mainly my thing, as you can tell," she says. Since

she began collecting people's thoughts and images five years ago, new doors have opened for her art.

"In 1989, something was going on in my personal life that I felt like I couldn't draw anymore. But I wanted to continue making art. [By giving up drawing,] I was able to work with other people's images and set up juxtapositions. I was no longer speaking in my own voice, but using other people's voices to explore intimate feelings and heartfelt thoughts. [This way,] I'm not bound to verity."

Vaughan is the equivalent of a novelist in the art world; her technique of appropriation puts diverse voices in proximity to one another. To make the storyboards into large artworks, she uses a projector and traces over the lines in the dark. She may trace over a few storyboards in one work, creating fortuitous connections between images. Al-

though she has received storyboards from many artists, her final work is all her own, like a novel that incorporates the words of several characters. Her pieces are sites of great activity and life; they are battlegrounds and playgrounds.

Vaughan's most recent installation, called "(Qu)alms" was at the Intersection for the Arts on Valencia Street during July and August. (Qu)alms consisted of large works, smaller prints and a book called "The Beggartist's Workbook." Many of the images and words for her larger works came from seniors and staff at the Capp Street Neighborhood Center and The New Traditions Elementary School near Haight. "The Beggartist's Workbook" is a keepsake, autograph book and postcard book for viewers to take with them. One side of each page in the book is a blank storyboard; the other side contains art from Mission beggars as well as contributions about beggars from two youths in Vaughan's neighborhood.

"Every time I met a beggar I was making art. Most people were willing to give me a storyboard, I think, because they feel like they are creative," she explains.

Vaughan makes relentless eye contact as she talks. She is driven but personable and incredibly encouraging to her conversation partner. Her ideas are like the glowing plugs of sulfur thrown from a lit road flare.

"I was raised poor," she says. "It can be a frustrating way of experiencing the world." Growing up in Houston, Vaughan dropped out of high school in the tenth grade. She got her GED and audited art history classes at the University of Texas at Austin. During her late teens, Vaughan's parents were both hospitalized in Houston. Homeless during part of that time, she hitchhiked between Austin and Houston to see her parents and tried her hand at panhandling.

Although Vaughan is more familiar with homelessness than most people, she feels a contradiction in being a professional artist and dealing with panhandlers as her subject. "I'm not satisfying my guilt. But the (Qu)alms series does remind me of the problems of existence. It's a place I came from, and it's a place I could be."

Beggars, Vaughan feels, would rather make an exchange - art for spare change -

than just receive a handout. Since her work depends on contributions from others, Vaughan revises relationship between panhandler and benefactor. For this reason, she says that her work is a "given." Even the title of her book, "Beggartist" mixes up the world of artist and beggar. She loves to pun and reverse things, to look at them from the bottom up.

Vaughan seems always to be moving on to new subjects. After five years, she admits, she is beginning to delight again in drawing figures. While much of the (Qu)alms series came from her storyboard archive of almost 1500 contributions, the installation also included large silhouettes of beggars that she drew from sketches by 17th-century artist Jacques Caillot. The works are done in dynamic yellow on blue background, or blue on yellow. She makes stencils of her drawings on sticky shelving paper and tears out the inside of the stencils to make more images. Her work is a crude printing process of tearing the drawings off the surface, painting over them, then perhaps tearing them off again. Viewed from far away, the Caillot images are like icons as clear as road signs, but close up the drawings of beggars are ragged and the shelving paper looks bubbly.

The imperfections in (Qu)alms are intentional. "The large stencils take a difficult subject and let the paint tear or blister," Vaughan says. "[I'm trying to] integrate the subject of the series into the actual process."

Engendered in community, her art ends there too. After Vaughan has asked people for their "marks and remarks" on storyboards, she is interested in their reactions to the final product. At the Headlands, she confides to one viewer, "I felt a tingle while you were looking over at some of the art." She doesn't use frames; and since her works are on large aluminum sheets that have been discarded from a printing company, her installations are not as intimidating as the average art show. She notes that only one homeless viewer visited her show at Intersection for the Arts. He remarked, "It's nice to go in a gallery and see things that aren't so expensive."

Rob Parks

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THE SPIRIT OF THE CARIBBEAN

OYA NIKE KEEPS THE (MULTICULTURAL) FAITH

by Bob Parks

There are bound to be questions. With new customers, who may know nothing about the African-Caribbean cultures that drive Oya Nike Cultural, stepping into the store's new spot on Valencia Street, there'll be plenty of questions. But Ruben Texidor, Oya Nike's proprietor, is always patient and willing to provide answers.

"I want a lot of people to know about this. It's the culture I grew up with. People need education in these cultural things and in spirit world things," he says. Having just moved the store to Valencia Street from Dolores, he expects more people to notice it and is anxious to teach as many as possible about the extraordinary mix of cultures inside.

The shop sells drums, African art, tee-shirts, candles, clothes, CDs and health baths. There is some emphasis on the practice *Santeria*, a form of worship of saints and ancestors. Texidor, a *spiritista* (like a priest in this tradition), does spiritual readings. But the store sells items related to other spiritual traditions, as well as imported goods like leather bags, clothing material and a large selection of music.

A customer wanders in and Texidor greets him, "This is your house; come by any time you want to." Texidor wants people who walk in past the elemental copper sign and Puerto Rican flag to know what his heritage is really about. "I want no old fashioned ideas about what this is. A lot of people don't know the difference between Santeria and Voodoo. They're two different things," he says.

It is as hard to pin down the main emphasis of Oya Nike as it is for its owner to give quick answers about his heritage.

Texidor, who grew up in Puerto Rico, describes his childhood as a blend of different cultures, full of music and dancing: "I played the drums. Everyone was expected to play instruments and to dance.



Ruben Texidor Photo by Eugene Kettner

I did not grow up specifically with Santeria; I grew up with a little bit of everything." He explains that his Puerto Rican heritage is the combination of at least three cultural strains: Indian, African and Spanish. "A lot of religious Puerto Ricans are Indian," he says.

In addition to native peoples' religious practices in Puerto Rico, the history of the Caribbean is also the history of an African influence, which began when the Spanish abducted West Africans and took them to

Cuba as slaves. There, Africans made musical and religious contributions to the culture and adopted some Catholic practices (in order to continue worshipping the natural spirit world and their ancestors,


a Santeria float in the Mission Carnival parade. In the last two decades, he has helped organize and design publicity for Latin-American music and dance events. Currently, he leads a music and dance group associated with Oya Nike and gives presentations on his heritage.

But the last few weeks have been draining for Texidor, "mentally, physically and spiritually." He is completing the decorations for the store and has been finishing altars dedicated to his ancestors and the *orishas*, or natural deities in Santeria. Texidor's orisha is Oya, from which Oya Nike Cultural gets its name. It is the deity of sun, fire and wind. The other part of the business's name, "Nike" means the road or path.

For Texidor, a proper altar to ancestors and spirits is one of his most important means of cultural expression. One that he recently created appeared in a Berkeley show of ancestor altars sponsored by Global Exchange.

Helping out in the store is Alfredo Alfaro, originally from Peru, who runs the Association of Amateur Artists. Alfaro describes himself in terms of Sancho to Texidor's Quixote because he feels that spreading the word about their music, art and religious heritage has required a good bit of idealism. "Years ago, Rubin had the guts to put a float in Carnival. Some people think he's crazy, but I stand beside him to help educate people about these cultural things," he says.

Oya Nike Cultural is located at 1252 Valencia Street, near 24th Street. Telephone: 821-9127



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INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE FOR KIDS

by Stett Holbrook

The Mission District has the highest concentration of young people in San Francisco, and this population has specific health care needs. The Mission is fortunate to have several excellent pediatric health care facilities to choose from. There are the facilities at St. Luke's; in addition, comprehensive, innovative and expert health care for children is offered by UCSF Valencia Pediatrics and the Children's Health Center at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH).

UCSF Valencia Pediatrics was acquired by UC last fall. This clinic is unique because it is run almost entirely by nurse practitioners. If needed, its consulting physician, Richard Sanchez, a UCSF clinical instructor on St. Luke's staff, is right next door. The facility not only provides patients with thorough care but gives nurses valuable, hands-on experience.

The clinic treats about 500 children a month. Fifty seven percent of these patients are Latino, one-quarter African American and five percent white. The rest are Filipino, Pacific Islander or of mixed ethnicity. The children are seen for health maintenance and promotion and treated for a wide variety of ailments. Should a patient need hospitalization, he or she is referred to St. Luke's or UCSF for specialized care.

On the other side of the Mission is the Children's Health Center at SFGH. For more than 40 years, the pediatrics clinic has been providing Mission residents with a wide variety of expert services. The Center offers a full range of comprehensive pediatric care, from routine check-ups to emergency treatment.

The Center treats 40,000 patients a year, most of them from Spanish-speaking, Mission district families. Although the Center has been around for a long time, it continues to grow and evolve.

In a policy instituted in May, all



UCSF pediatric nurse practitioner Karen Duderstadt (right) examines Zaid Hassan as his mother looks on. Photo by Allen Balderson.

UCSF-affiliated hospitals, including SFGH, will standardize the use of pain-killing drugs for children. Traditionally, children have been undermedicated for fear of adverse effects.

"It's been well documented throughout the country that children are far less likely to receive medications for the same procedures adults would receive medications for," said Dr. Ron Dickmann, UCSF associate professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine.

"The policy recognized that kids have feelings," explained Dr. Sylvia Villareal, UCSF associate clinical professor of pediatrics, director of in-patient services at SFGH and co-chair of the 18-member committee that developed the new policy. "When we manipulate them, they do feel pain. What we're saying is children don't deserve to be in pain if we have the means to take that pain away from them."

For example, a child who comes into the Emergency Department with a cut might receive a sedative called midazolam, administered as nose drops. The drug

works in 10 to 15 minutes and calms the child, making the physician's job easier. The doctor would then apply a topical solution to numb the wound and sew it up with minimal discomfort. In the past, physicians might have used drugs that required injections or sedated the child for as long as 24 hours. Often they did not use drugs at all.

Another innovation at SFGH is a new system in which hospital visits will be made more convenient for both children and parents. The new system, which went into effect on July 5, assigns each child a primary care provider and schedules regular appointments, rather than have the child make drop-in visits to the clinic.

Children may still be seen by a specialist, but the primary care provider will coordinate the patient's care and make sure he or she is followed through the system. In addition, a telephone advice line staffed by a bilingual nurse is available for parents.

"I think the changes will make the clinic much more user-friendly," said Dr. Richard Brown, UCSF professor of medicine and director of the Center. "The patients will know who their providers are and will be able to connect with this doctor or nurse practitioner. So there will be much better continuity and quality of care."

Although the outcome of Proposition 187 is unclear, the SFGH staff are unequivocal in their determination to continue treating children and are opposed to any measure that would deny health care to those who need it, regardless of their nationality or legal status.

Dr. Kevin Coulter, UCSF associate professor of medicine and assistant director of the Center, expressed a sentiment he said was shared by a majority of the hospital's staff. "Proposition 187 is an abomination. It is a hindrance to medical care, and ethically it is wrong ... We will not abide by it."

Through their years of pediatric care and ongoing innovations, it is clear that accessible and thorough health care are high priorities at SFGH and UCSF.

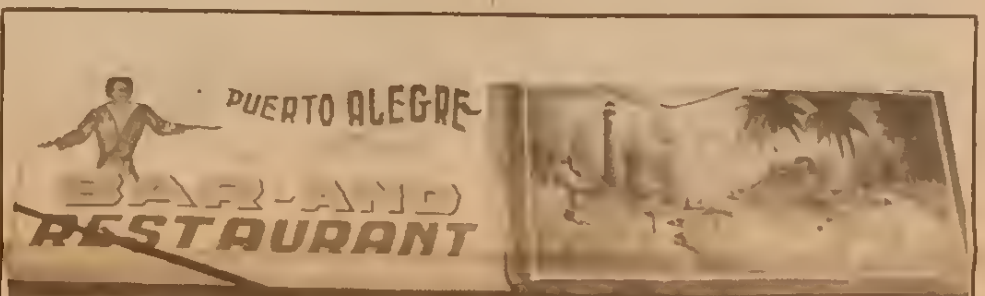
UCSF Valencia Pediatrics, located at 1640 Valencia, is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call 647-3666.



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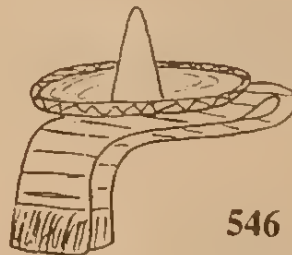


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CHIROPRACTIC NOTEBOOK

By: Dr. Ross Williams

INSOMNIA IT MAY BE RELATED TO NECK AND BACK PROBLEMS

According to a Gallup survey taken three years ago, 40 percent of people over 60 years of age have problems sleeping. Now, the Council on Neurology of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) sheds new light on sleep disorders.

At a recent ACA meeting it was stated, "While the elderly are prime victims of sleep disorders, this problem is not limited to older people. We estimate that **ONE OUT THREE ADULTS** suffers from lack of quality sleep, and in many cases it is the result of structural health problems." According to these health specialists, there are many underlying causes, including abnormal motion of joints in the neck and back.

Nerve receptors, which are stimulated with normal joint movement, affect the state of other nerves in the brain and spinal cord to allow normal sleep. If there is a problem with normal movement at these joints, their receptors cannot be stimulated and the quality of sleep and other functions may be affected.

The consequences of sleep problems can be very serious. Lack of sufficient sleep can be a destructive force in one's life, affecting compatibility with friends, family, career and life style. Individuals may be extremely tired and have no energy throughout the day. Happy people can become miserable and other body systems may suffer as a result of the inability to

sleep properly.

ACA noted that the cause of the sleep disorder often goes unnoticed because the victim does not feel any pain in the back or neck. Most disturbances of joint motion are not painful but may have severe consequences for health and sleep quality if not corrected.

According to the clinical investigators, inability to sleep often leads to a secondary problem that can be as bad or worse. The insomniac may search for a variety of cures and can develop an addiction to medication. Sleeping pills don't work when structural pathology of joint movement is the cause of the sleep disorder.

Effective treatment for sleep difficulties caused by structural health problems is available from doctors of chiropractic. Anyone who can't sleep should have a thorough physical examination by a doctor of chiropractic to discover if there is an underlying structural imbalance causing the disorder. The chiropractor is concerned with every internal and external factor that might influence your body's proper functioning. In the case of sleep, even your mattress or pillow should be checked to see if they are suitable to your body.

"Natural sleep is an important function essential to life. When the quality of sleep is compromised, people should seek professional help before other functions are affected," the Council on Neurology concluded.

If you have any questions regarding your health, please call Mission District Chiropractors at 826-1000.

LORD OF MIRACLES MARCH



October 18 is celebrated in Peru as the Feast of the Señor de los Milagros, or Lord of the Miracles. The Peruvian community of San Francisco celebrates this feast on the third Sunday of October with a mass at Mission Dolores Church, a procession down Dolores Street to 18th Street and back to the church, and a festival for the rest of the day.

This year's procession was an impressive spectacle of public piety displayed visually and musically. About 20 men carried a huge, heavy wooden platform with a painting of Christ crucified on top. Every half block, the procession halted, a man wearing a purple robe belted with a white rope hit a bell that was mounted on the platform and the carriers put the platform down on the street. Parents would lift infants and small children up to the painting and make the sign of the cross with their offspring. Then the purple-robed man hit the bell again, the carriers lifted the platform back up and the procession continued. People sang hymns in Spanish. A group of musicians from the

Hispanic Choir trailed the platform, playing woodwinds.

At the procession's close, the carriers brought the platform into Mission Dolores Church. Parishioners who approached the altar were given a flower.

Devotion to the Señor de los Milagros is over 300 years old. An Angolan slave painted the picture in 1651. Four years later, an earthquake destroyed every structure in the vicinity of the painting except the painting itself. As devotion to the Señor spread, people with sickness visited the painting for a cure. In Lima, the painting is a replica of the original. It is carried for 48 hours while army, navy and air force bands rotate, playing the appropriate music.

San Francisco's celebration is put together by the Hermandad Señor de los Milagros, an organization devoted exclusively to this particular feast day. Jose Rosas, a Hermandad member, said of this year's procession: "We are very happy. We are very proud."

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by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

Ah yes, it is ELECTIONS time again, the only multiple choice test in the world that doesn't offer the option of "none of the above." The trick, of course, is that not many of the available options answer any of the questions. Choose between Feinstein and Huffington? I'd rather have to choose between parsnips and turnips. Of course, in answer to the question "Which food do you like best?" I'd pick the choice "none of the above." The problem with being faced with such choices, without the possibility of just saying no, is that all other possible choices are left out. I mean, what about broccoli? Nope, can't have that; it's not part of the question. This is a diet of deprivation, denial; it is an eating disorder. Each election causes us to binge on a diet of political garbage until we puke it up in the voting booth, only to start over with the next binge.

There are other ill effects from the political process. Elections are a primary contributor to soul damage among the population. For example, if the "SOS" and "Three Strikes" propositions are passed, we are saying it is better to spend billions on punishment rather than education, on

prison cells rather than housing, on dysfunction rather than health. If we vote for Huffington or Feinstein, we are saying it is okay for two people to spend 40 million dollars on junk food (political commer-

cials) while there are people in this town starving to death.

Political campaigns subject us to second-hand pollution via the media and mailings. We are poisoned by the lying distortions of negative campaigns, biased journalism, debilitating opinions and false promises. Once the nominees are elected we are then subjected to the dis-ease of unhealthy leadership, bad ideas and repressive laws. And even though we know how unhealthy this whole system is, we continue to participate in it because we

are addicted. There are very few of the we-the-people who believe there is any redeeming social value in the political process. Yet, we still buy into it, read the papers, watch the commercials, cast the votes. We know this isn't good for us, but we can't stop.

I want some election reform. All politimericals would be banned. They are the leading cause of the death of democracy. All political polls would be dismantled. They are the leading cause of brain damage. All campaign consultants would be put in jail for life without possibility of parole; no incoming or outgoing

"Mexicans need not apply." Three Strikes would read, "If you're from the ghettos and barrios, you're dead meat."

Millionaires don't understand poverty. Lawyers are bound to pass laws to keep themselves employed. Fear of "them" is the origin of social legislation. Ineptness is rewarded by a system that requires a person hired to remain on the job for years before any evaluation can be made. The rules of the electoral process are: win at all costs; lie and don't get caught; divide the people and while they're fighting, reap the rewards of the legalized looting. Political polls are studies by sociologists to provide politicians with a way to manipulate the people.

The only election pamphlets mailed would be created from a cooperative effort of the Registrar of Voters and Secretary of State. In these, there would be biographical, financial information; every candidate's yes/no responses to a ballot propositions questionnaire; a complete record of an incumbent's voting record from any legislative experience. These would be mailed to every household and inserted into every newspaper. All political candidates would be required to raise funds for this effort. Fundraising for individual political campaigns would be abolished. Radio/TV media would provide free air time for debates and live interviews; every candidate would be required to participate.

Am I kidding? This is no joke to the lives that will be adversely affected. The shame of the current degeneration of the democratic process is no laughing matter.

NONE OF THE ABOVE

mail allowed. They are the most dangerous criminals, because they murder visionary possibilities. All politicians would be called for job interviews and required to submit resumes. There must be an end to cronyism; if secretaries aren't hired who can't type, why should we have mayors who can't think? No lawyers or millionaires would be allowed to run for political office; they have a conflict of interest. All ballot propositions would be ten words or less without comment or argument. For example, SOS would read,



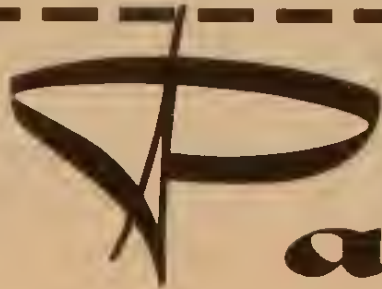
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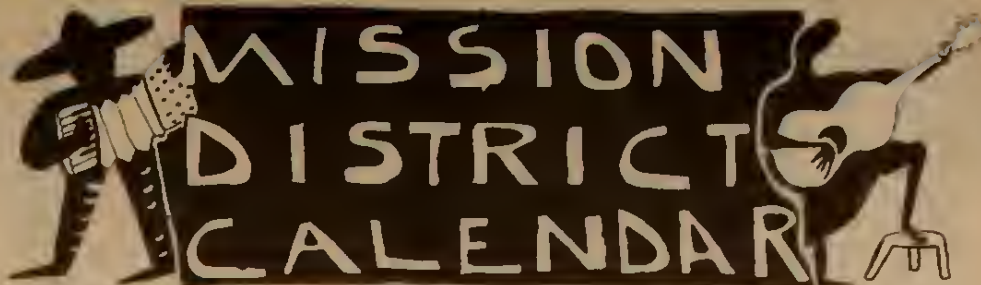
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Carnaval Mural Unveiling - Artists and community folks celebrate the completion of the 300 foot long Carnaval Mural which has been in the works for the last 2 1/2 years. PG&E wall on Harrison between 18th and 19th, noon to 6 pm, free. 285-2287

Pet Loss Support Group - Dr. Betty Carmack moderates this session for grieving pet owners. SF SPCA 2500 16th St., 7:30 pm, free. 554-3000

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Dress Up!, Get Down!, Get Dead! - The Mission's own natural born killed people procession, celebration and otherwise good time starts at Mission Cultural Center on Mission Street near 25th at 7 pm. Come as your favorite biologically challenged individual. For all the other-worldly details call 821-1155.

10th Annual Film Arts Festival - 87 films and videos in a five day program running through November 6. Roxie Cinema 3117 16th St., Call 552-FILM for complete program brochure, tickets and information.

We Came All The Way From Cuba So You Could Dress Like This? - Achey Obejas reads from her debut collection of stories about immigration, sexuality and marginal living. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

NEMIZ Visions and Revisions - Public hearing/workshop on artists' live/work space in the North East Mission Industrial Zone, a political hornets nest without equal. Room 282 City Hall, call 558-6362 for approximate time.

"Fierce/Pink/House" - New works derived from the Della Davidson Dance Company's Estrogen Project promise to "journey beyond the conventional boundaries of women's imagery and expression" with theater/dance pieces inspired by the writings of Anne Sexton, Alice Walker, Toni Morrison and Isabel Allende. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St, 8:30 pm, \$12.50 - \$14.50. RUNS THROUGH NOVEMBER 6. 621-7797

Networking Party for Women in Business - Door prizes, refreshments, a resource exchange bulletin board and a talk by martial artist Karen Whately on women's self-empowerment. Women's Building (Harriet Tubman Room) 6- 8 pm, \$10-12. 981-8845

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Public Sex - Radical sexpert and latex aficionado Pat Califia discusses her writings on lesbian sex, safe sex, porn and whatever else she came whip up. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free.

Big Trouble - LLOYD Dangle's Trouble Town Show features a 3D model of Trouble Town, action figures, T shirts and the board game Heavenly Ham House. Little Frankenstein's 3804 17th St, call 864-6543 for time, free.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Police Action - Open house party at the new Mission Police Station on Valencia at 17th with food, entertainment, fun and a secure feeling for the whole family 11 am to 3 pm.

Adam Domash Piano Bash - Solo performance combining improvisation and

20th Century classical music. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 8 pm, \$3-8. 647-6015

Power Rangers Deconstructed - With film clips and cyber quips Patrick Macias and August Ragone attempt to explain the bizarre world of Japanese and Japanese influenced pop culture. Also short strange films on UFO's , and biospheres gone sour. Free Tang. ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

Latino Authors at Bay Area Book Festival - Day one features Ronald Ruiz, Dagoberto Gilb, Floyd Salas, Bernice Zamora and panel discussions conducted by Arturo Arias and Tino Villanueva. Concourse Exhibition Center 635 8th St., 10 am - 6 pm, \$2, CONCLUDES TOMORROW. 861-2655

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Latino Authors at Bay Area Book Festival - Day two features Daniel Reveles, Demetria Martinez, Olga Loya, Rafael Campo, Sara Levi Calderon, Betina Flores, Achy Obejas, Evelyn Gallardo, Marjorie Agosin, Jose Montoya and Jimmy Santiago Baca. Concourse Exhibition Center 635 8th St., 10 am - 6 pm, \$2. 861-2655

S.F. Children's Chorus - Songs from around the world with conductor Urs Leonhardt and pianist Grace Kaori Ishihara. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 3 pm, free. 647-6015

The Last Known Residence of Mickey Acuna - Dagoberto Gilb reads from his novel about a down and out life of desperation at the YMCA. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7 pm, free.

Bunny Club - Beth Woolbright of the House Rabbit Society goes over the do's and don'ts of hare care. SF SPCA 2500 16th St., 1 pm, \$5 suggested donation. 554-3050

Talk Dirty To Me - Author Sallie Tisdale tongue dances through the pages of her essay about women and porn. Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia St., 8 pm, free. 974- 8980

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Uses of Haiti - Paul Farmer, a physician and Harvard professor talks about his book on the root causes of the Haitian tragedy. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm free.

Healing for Beginners - A free workshop for people who want to develop their healing gift. Fort Mason Center Gatehouse, 7:30 pm. 267-8008

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Mother Tongue - Author Demetria Martinez reads from her novel (winner of the 1994 Western States Book Award for fiction) about a cross cultural tragic love affair. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia, 7:30, free.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Using Usenet with a Tin Newsreader - Learn how to participate in global discussions on thousands of subjects using Iain Lea's Tin newsreader and other mysterious stuff as explained by cybersavant Eric Thiese. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, \$3-5.

Grant Writing for Artists - Go for the gold fundamentals. Fort Mason Center Bldg. C, Rm. 255, 7 pm, \$15. 775-7200

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hammer and Sickle Hijinks - Celebrate the 77th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution at a meeting of Radical Women. Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia, Delicious Autumn Dinner at 6:45 pm (\$5 donation), meeting at 7:30. 864-1278

Ross on the Rebellon - Local investigative journalist John Ross, who has covered Mexican politics for the past 20 years, debuts his new book Rebellion At The Roots Of The Indian Uprising In Chiapas. Crusty and cantankerous though he be, Ross is a painstaking and meticulous researcher and also knows how to tell a good story. A must for anyone interested in the Zapatista phenomena. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Kulintang Arts Presents - Three day festival of works by Pilipino choreographers, including Ching Gonzalez from New York, Enrico Labayan and the LAB. from Manila, Pearl Unbungen Dancers and Musicians from San Francisco (Friday and Sunday only) and Alleluia Panis from the Bay Area with Kulintang Arts. New Performance Gallery 3153 17th St., Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 pm, \$10-12.50. 626-6745

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

"Deadbeat at Dawn" - Legendary filmmaker Eric Van Bebber's feature length gang war epic delivers more gore than Romero and more mayhem than Woo. But probably not as much of either one as you'd find in the average Three Stooges short. Also on the bill Van Bebber's "My Sweet Satan". ATA 992 Valencia St, 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Silk Roadhouse Party - Live music by the Dun Huang Music Ensemble, Middle Eastern Percussion by Mary Ellen Donald, dance by Sharlyn Sawyer of Ballet Afsaneh, Middle Eastern and Chinese food plus a slide show presentation on the ancient oases cities of the silk road. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 4 pm, \$10-14. 587-3956

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

W.A.R. Council - Women Against Rape begins its Winter rape crisis counselor training for women of color only. Call 861-2024 for details.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Co-Ed Erotic Reading Circle - Bring your smut or somebody else's and read to a group of nonjudgemental pruriently inclined seekers of cheap thrills. Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia, 8 pm, free. 974-8980.

Contemporary Composer Double Bill - The program includes Erik Walker's "The Kisses" - a collaboration with soprano vocalist/filmmaker Cameron Bamberger - plus Anna-Katharina Karey's neoclassical "Death of A Hero" and her jazz hip hop and funk work with the Karey Quartet. New Performance Gallery 3153 17th St., 8 pm, \$7-8. 626-6745

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The Lavendar Open - The Bay area's only open poetry and prose reading for lesbians and gays. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Got O.J.? - Media critic Susan Johnson speaks on "Battering, Lies and Videotape" a look at the media's reporting of domestic violence and sexual assault. New College 777 Valencia St., 7:30 pm, \$5-10.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Nomad Video Festival - Fifteen short video and film works of a noncommercial nature by artists hailing from various parts of the U.S. and Canada. ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Saturday Night at the Opera - The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble sings excerpts from the world's great operas. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 8 pm, \$8. 647-6015

Dames Are Murder - Caroline Blair's featurette film "The Day I Shot President Kennedy" plus "Invisible World" which details the down side of Priscilla Presley identification. ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Jazz, Jazz, Jazz - Lisle Ellis' "What We Live" live At Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St, 8:30 pm, free. 826-1199

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Cybernautic Surfing - Gary Wolf and Michael Stein demonstrate how the use of their book Aether Madness can take you to an online synagogue, porno archives, an electronic Prozac support group and other odd off ramps of the information highway. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia st., 7:30, \$3-5.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Qualifying Maddness - A collaborative theater work by four women reconciling lyricism with frustration and aspiration with fear. Runs through November 27. Luna Sea 2940 16th St. #216C, 8 pm, \$7-10. 863-2989

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

No Thanks -giving Films - How indigenous Amazon people are making use of T.V., electronic folklore from the Emergency Broadcast Network, simulated news from the Barbie Liberation Organization and more stuff in the same vein. ATA 992 Valencia St., 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

Dog Do\ Dog Don't - A class for pet owners plagued by canine misbehavior. SF SPCA 2500 16th St., 3 pm- 5 pm, \$5. 554-3073

Whiptail Lizard Women's Collective Holiday Crafts Fair - Title tells all. New College 777 Valencia St., 2-6 pm. 641-4220 x123 ALSO ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Roasts, Toasts and Spicy Dialogue - National Comrades of Color Caucus of Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party host a sumptuous banquet. 8 pm, call 864-1278 for details

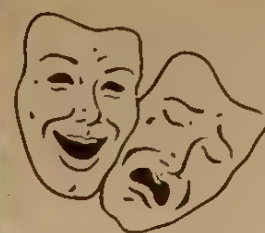
Live Jazz - Miya Masaoka and India Cooke. Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 8:30 pm. 826-1199

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Keane Poetry - Keane's Club 3300 Poetry series, now in its third year features Lee Hopkins, Nancy Keane and Robert Lavett Smith followed by an open mike. Keane's 3300 Club at 29th and Mission, 7 pm, free admission and free hors d'oeuvres. 824-0835



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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

LIVE LATIN JAZZ

One of the hottest salsa/latin jazz bands around is Manny Oquendo & Conjunto Libre from New York City. A well-known musician's band for the past 20 years, they feature leader Oquendo on timbales and percussions, premiere bassist Andy Gonzalez and the four-trombone section, which provides their signature sound.

They have a new CD out produced by Todd Barkan, formerly of Keystone Korner and Yoshi's, entitled *Mejor Que Nunca*. They work through some jazzy Puerto Rican bomba and plena, do a little crossover bolero and mambo in English, and bring it all up to an enthusiastic jam on the last cut, which gives the CD its title. If you haven't heard this band before, you might want to check out their only earlier release on the CD *Ritmo, Sonido, y Estilo*, a true class of Nueyoricana salsa & jazz. They will be performing as part of the San Francisco Jazz Festival at Bimbo's 365 Club on Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5. Their show promises to be a world-class affair.

The Gonzalez brothers, Andy on bass and Jerry on congas, trumpet and flugelhorn, are the core of what is perhaps the best contemporary Latin jazz band, The Fort Apache Band. Their latest release is also produced by Todd Barkan on Milestone records. On "Crossroads" there are seven boppin' Latin jazz cuts with short sections of traditional Afro-Cuban rumba segueways that tease us into the next bop.

Larry Willis on piano and the great percussionist Steve Berrios complete the rhythm section, and John Stubblefield and Joe Ford provide the saxophone punch. Deep roots and sophisticated arrangements make this some serious shit.

Los Van Van, who have been one of the top bands in Cuba over the past 20 years, have two new releases. Their "songo" style takes the more traditional son, adds a funky fusion bass line and integrates several trombones, violins, occasional sax and flute, grounded in an active percussion corps. *Azucar* was their last studio release in Cuba and is now available on Xenophile records, an offshoot of the American-based Celtic label Green Linnet, which will also be putting out the new recording by our great local Cuban band, Conjunto Cespedes.

While many Cuban musicians are tailoring their music to the "romantica" pop salsa market (hoping to make some desperately needed dollars) and putting out some cheap-sounding and utterly forgettable music, Los Van Van show they have no intention of changing their style on their new live CD, *Lo Ultimo En Vivo*. A new singer and some other personnel changes seem to have invigorated the band. All 10 cuts are strong. Check it out! Maybe someday they will even be allowed to perform in the United States.

Coming home after their well-received set at the Monterey Jazz Festival, John Santos and the Machete Ensemble will be giving two special shows on in San Francisco Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. Santos grew up here in the Mission and has gone on to become a well-respected authority on Latin and Caribbean music as well as a top-notch conguero, producer and band leader; the theme of this show will be "The Roots of Afro-Antillean Jazz" with a 17-member group of great musicians and dancers. Don't miss this event.

From the German company Piranha



comes an interesting CD, *Carnevale Caribe*, a collection of studio recordings made during a festival in Berlin; featured artists include Mario Bauza and his Afro-Cuban Orchestra, Rico Rodriguez from Jamaica, Orq. Cumbre de Pinar del Rio

in Cuba, and other top musicians from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Haiti. Great material well recorded in a diverse collection.

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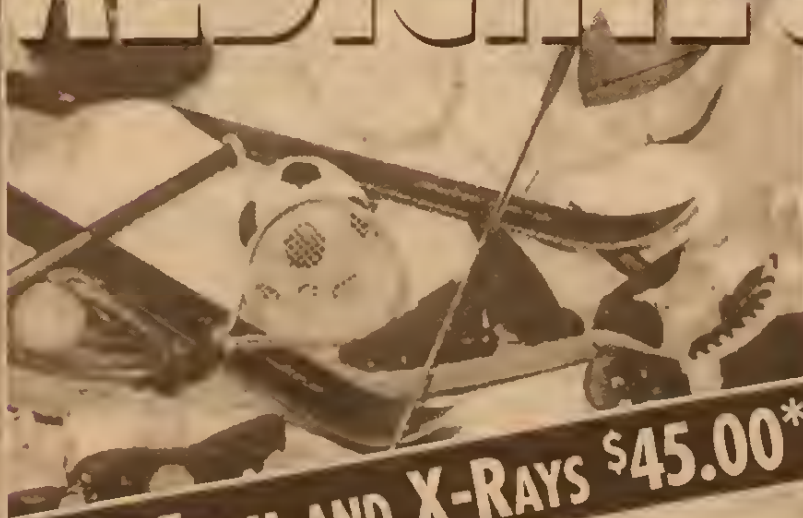


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EDGAR CAYCE NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH PMS

by Frank Deadbeat

With Thanksgiving sneaking up on us again, some of you poor sods may be asking yourselves, "what the hell do I have to be thankful for?" Well, I'm here to tell you: you've got me. You've got this column, and you damn well better be thankful for it because I almost didn't write one this month. I haven't had time to do any writing since the temp agency I signed up with sent me to work for the law firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. A two-week assignment, they told me. 8:30 to 5:00. Yeah, right.

I've been working eighteen days straight, without a break. Ten or more hours per day, sitting in front of a damn computer screen, entering codes into a CIS database. If you don't know what that means, well, there's another thing for you to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. Which brings me to the question: what the hell do I have to be thankful for? Sure, I'm making money, working overtime; don't have to worry about the rent for a month or two -- but at what price? Should I be thankful that to earn the kind of money most yuppies can earn with a couple of phone calls and a few venal sins, I have to turn my life into a living hell? My neck, my back, my eyes, my carpal tunnels are killing me.

Ironical, isn't it? Me, Frank Deadbeat, who swore for years to never ever work in the Financial Hive again, now working for Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. I mean, PMS is about as Hive as it gets. You may be wondering how I can stand it. Do I fume with hatred as I watch the suits and skirts who throng the sidewalks, rivers of enslaving and enslaved humanity that flow at rush hour and at lunch time at the bottom of the sunless downtown canyons of steel and glass? To tell the truth, not really. For one thing, I rarely come in contact with lawyers or executives or other human sharks. Most of the people I work with are

good people. But what really tempers my proletarian disgust is remembering to give thanks. Each morning I give thanks the buildings are still standing, because I know I'll miss them when they're gone. If I survive, if I happen to be out of state when the Big One hits, I'll look back wistfully and fondly even at the ol' Financial Hive. Each morning when I go to work, I try to take a mental snapshot of the skyline, buildings, streets and people, and I think: this all will pass. Like the doomed citizens of Pompeii in the year 78 A.D., these people are already ghosts. They're all temps, every one of them.

What is it makes my thoughts to tend in this direction? Not a "what" -- a who. Man by the name of Edgar Cayce. "The Sleeping Prophet." Almost every one of the very specific predictions he made in the early part of this century have come true, so it would be a fool indeed who dismissed him out of hand. And Edgar Cayce predicted that California would go the way of Atlantis some time in the mid 1990's.

It's about that time, folks. In two months it'll be 1995. I know some Cayce-heeders who are seriously considering getting out while the getting is good, but I figure I'll stay. Why not? We've all got to go sometime, so why not all go together? Something kinda cool about that -- to be part of something so big.

Each day we live here is a gift, and therefore something to be thankful for -- until a rearing wall of water o'ertops the tallest downtown towers and we all go nightie-night with the fishies. Of course, it might not happen all at once. Like Atlantis, we might go in a series of disasters. Either way, we're going. You can count on that. Not one stone left atop another, etc.

Ok, so this wasn't one of my better columns. I told you, I don't have any time to write this month -- but, like they say at



PMS, before breaking out in peals of hysterical laughter, "so sue me!"

Actually, I have ridden the elevator with a few of the lawyers here, and I've seen them gliding down the halls, their

dorsal fins bursting through the backs of their suit jackets. When we all go underneath the waves, the lawyers will survive, and doubtless thrive -- as long as they keep swimming.



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